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THE
God
& THE FLIGHTLESS
Messenger
HAGI

The God and the Flightless Messenger
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The God & the Flightless Messenger

Contents

Chapter 1 5

Chapter 2 45

Chapter 3 83

Chapter 4 113

Chapter 5 155

Final Chapter 205

Special Chapter 253

Afterword 266

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NO MATTER THE SPECIES, THE ONE LABELED AS STRANGE IS ALWAYS THE FIRST TO BE CAST OUT.
THAT GUY STILL DOESN'T HAVE A GOD TO SERVE.
THAT GUY?
OH, YOU MEAN THE ONE WITH THE TINY WINGS?
WELL, THAT CAN'T BE HELPED.
HE CAN'T FLY WITH WINGS LIKE THAT...
TCH...
I CAN HEAR YOU, JACKASSES.
THEY'RE DOING IT ON PURPOSE.
FLAP
FLAP

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HEY!
CAN'T YOU DO IT MORE CAREFULLY?
FLINCH
I-I'M SORRY!
HA HA HA!
NOT TO WORRY!
CLAMOR
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOUR FUR IS A MESS!
YOU KNOW THE SLIGHTEST BIT OF CHAOS COULD HAVE TERRIBLE EFFECTS ON YOUR DIVINE SPIRIT!
AS LONG AS IT DOESN'T HURT, IT'S HARDLY A PROBLEM.
YOU'RE THE GREAT LORD THAT WATCHES OVER THIS ENTIRE MOUNTAIN RANGE!
FLINCH

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YOU MUST ALWAYS LOOK REFINED!
IN THE WORST CASE, YOU COULD BE ANNIHILATED!
IF YOU'RE INFECTED BY EVEN A LITTLE BIT OF CHAOS, YOUR POWER WILL WEAKEN!
EVEN THOUGH I'M A GOD...
HE'S YELLING AT ME LIKE THIS...
UGH, SHUSH. I'M TIRED OF LISTENING TO THIS.
IF ANYTHING WERE TO HAPPEN TO YOU—
DASH
DASH
DASH
DASH
SLAM
GREAT LORD!
HONESTLY, MY LORD!
THERE! RIGHT THERE!
CAN YOU MOVE THAT BRUSH A LITTLE HIGHER TO THE RIGHT?
OH!

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FWAP
WHY AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO'S GOTTA BE TIED UP?!
ACK!
FWUMP
SPEAK MORE POLITELY IN FRONT OF OUR LORD!
CLAMOR
YOU'RE TIED UP BECAUSE YOU KEEP STRUGGLING AND WON'T CALM DOWN!
DON'T POINT WITH YOUR FOOT!
IT'S NOT FAIR! WHY AM I THE ONLY ONE IN TROUBLE?
YOU SHOULD HAVE SHOWN RESTRAINT!
IT WAS THOSE GUYS WHO STARTED IT!
I WAS JUST TRYING TO GET BACK THE PACKAGE THEY TOOK FROM ME!
LOOK AT THEM! YOU WENT ALL OUT AGAINST THESE KIDS!
BEAT UP
10

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KA-SMACK
SITS UP!
HMPH
WELL, I DIDN'T EVEN NEED MY WINGS TO CATCH THEM.
THEY WERE MAKING FUN OF ME BECAUSE I CAN'T FLY.
THEY GOT WHAT THEY DESERVED.
BLEH
BLEH
YOU CAUSE PROBLEMS EVERY DAY. YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL SINCE YOU WERE A STUDENT!
THIS IS WHY YOU HAVEN'T BEEN ENTRUSTED WITH BECOMING A GOD'S MESSENGER YET!
THROB
SANZASHI-SAMA'S MOOD IS AT ITS WORST YET...
SIZZLE
WHY YOU LITTLE...
RUMBLE
ACHE
ACHE
SANZASHI-SENSEI...

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I'M REALLY SORRY...
SLUMP!
SLITHER
WHOAAA!
PA-POP
SHIN.
YOU WERE BORN WITH UNEVEN WINGS TOO SMALL FOR YOUR BODY...
SO YOU CANNOT FLY.
THE ALIENATION AND DESPERATION YOU FEEL...
BECAUSE YOU'RE DIFFERENT...
ALONG WITH THE ANGER YOU HAVE FOR BEING TEASED...
MEAN THAT YOUR EMOTIONS ARE ALWAYS DEEP IN YOUR BELLY, READY TO BURST.

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BY ACTING WITHOUT THOUGHT ON YOUR FEELINGS, YOU'VE DEVALUED YOURSELF.
I BELIEVE THAT...
IF YOU COULD SHARE THOSE FEELINGS WITH SOMEONE ELSE...
IF YOU COULD EXPRESS YOURSELF FOR SOMEONE ELSE'S SAKE INSTEAD, IT WOULD BE BETTER.
SO...
WHOOSH
SPLAT
SHIN, I'M ASSIGNING YOU TO BE THE MESSENGER OF THE GOD ON THE THIRTY-SECOND MOUNTAIN.
FLUTTER
32

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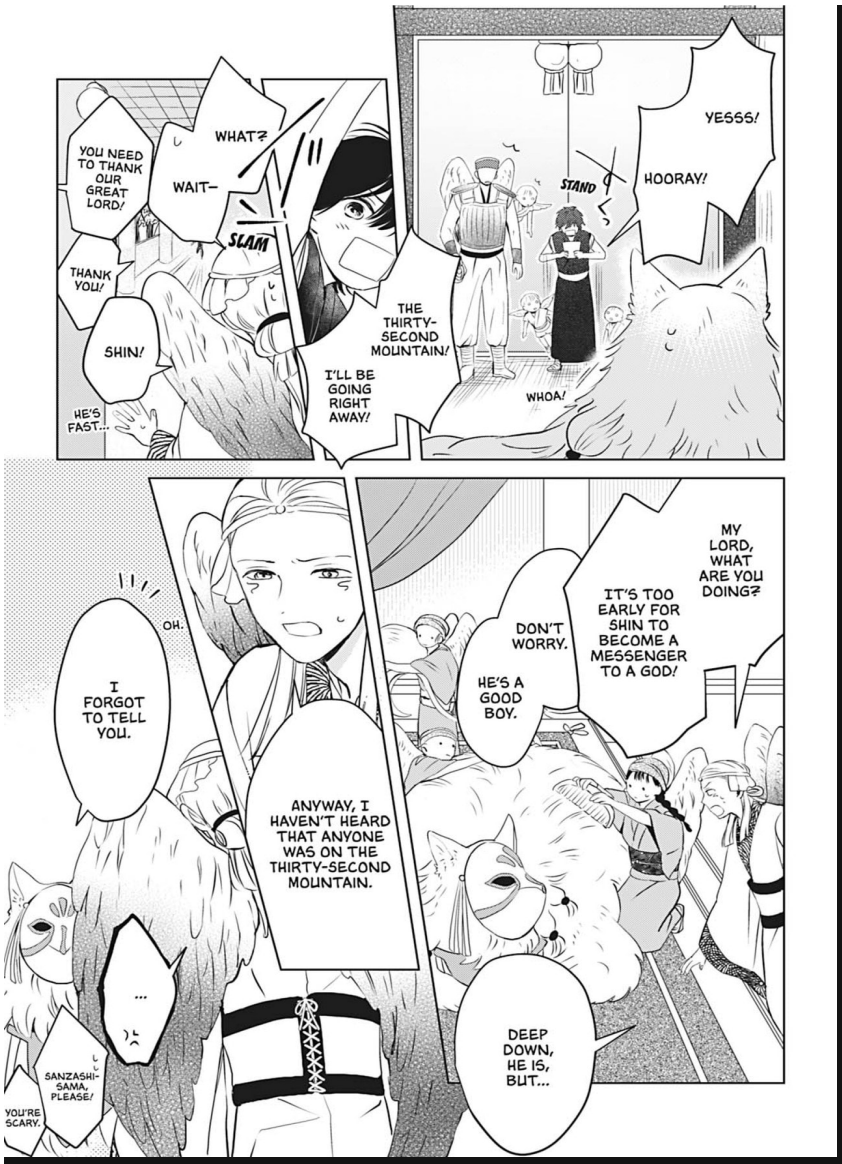

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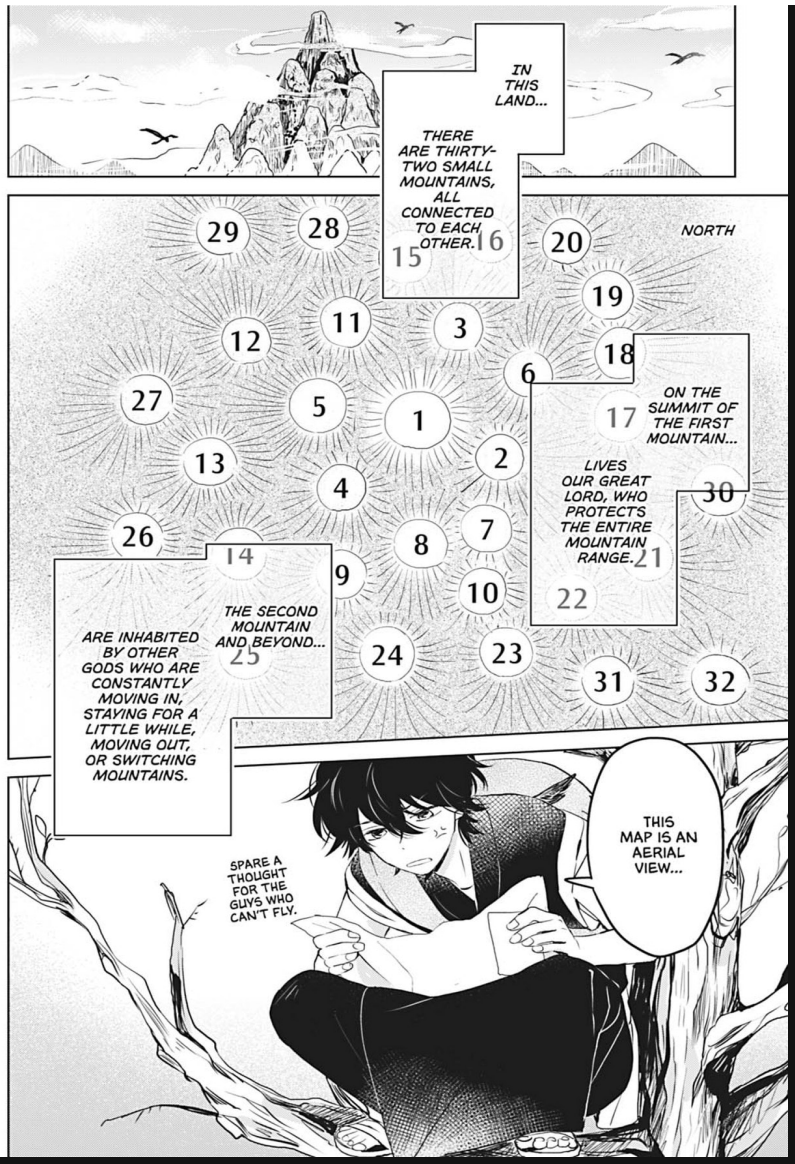
IN THIS LAND...
THERE ARE THIRTY-TWO SMALL MOUNTAINS, ALL CONNECTED TO EACH OTHER.
NORTH
ON THE SUMMIT OF THE FIRST MOUNTAIN...
LIVES OUR GREAT LORD, WHO PROTECTS THE ENTIRE MOUNTAIN RANGE.
THE SECOND MOUNTAIN AND BEYOND...
ARE INHABITED BY OTHER GODS WHO ARE CONSTANTLY MOVING IN, STAYING FOR A LITTLE WHILE, MOVING OUT, OR SWITCHING MOUNTAINS.
SPARE A THOUGHT FOR THE GUYS WHO CAN'T FLY.
THIS MAP IS AN AERIAL VIEW...

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LISTEN.
CHAOS WILL HARM A GOD.
THUNK
WHEN A GOD BECOMES TARNISHED BY CHAOS....
OR THEY WILL FALL.
CLICK
THEY WILL EITHER DISAPPEAR...
EXCUSE ME!
YOUR FUR IS MESSY! I DON'T WANT IT TO ATTRACT CHAOS TO YOUR SPIRIT, SO I NEED TO FIX IT.
IS THAT ALL RIGHT?
THEY'RE NOT RESPONDING...
STILL
SILENT
IT SHOULD BE FINE SINCE I ALREADY TRIED ASKING.
IT'LL PROBABLY BE WORSE IF I JUST LEFT IT.
GENTLY

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22

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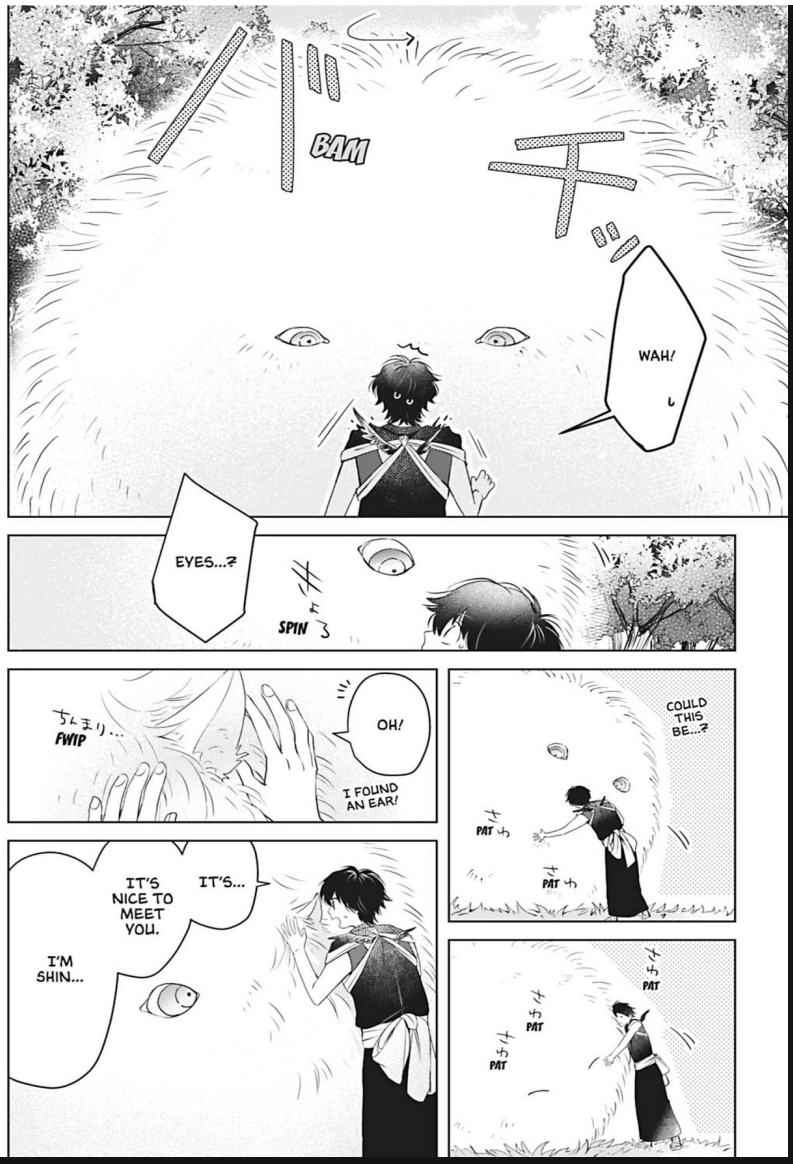

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I THINK...
THEY SMILED.
DO THEY UNDER-STAND ME?
BLINK
BLINK
AH...
THEIR EYES ARE SO BRIGHT AND CLEAR.
?
I TRIED CALLING OUT TO YOU. SORRY.
HEY, IF THEY HAD TO TURN 180 DEGREES TO FACE ME, THAT MEANS I'VE BEEN FACING THEIR BUTT THIS WHOLE TIME.

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26

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IT WOULD BE A LITTLE EASIER TO HANDLE IF YOU GOT A TRIM.
SINCE YOU HAVE SO MUCH FUR, IT TANGLES EASILY.
OH, YOU'RE AFRAID OF THE SCISSORS.
I MEAN... ARE YOU AFRAID OF THEM?
IF YOU STAY SO UNKEMPT, YOU'LL ATTRACT CHAOS AND YOU'LL BE IN DANGER.
FLINCH
SCISSORS...
HUH?
SHAKE
SHAKE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
PLEASE WAIT A MOMENT.
I THINK I BROUGHT SCISSORS WITH THE REST OF MY TOOLS...

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28

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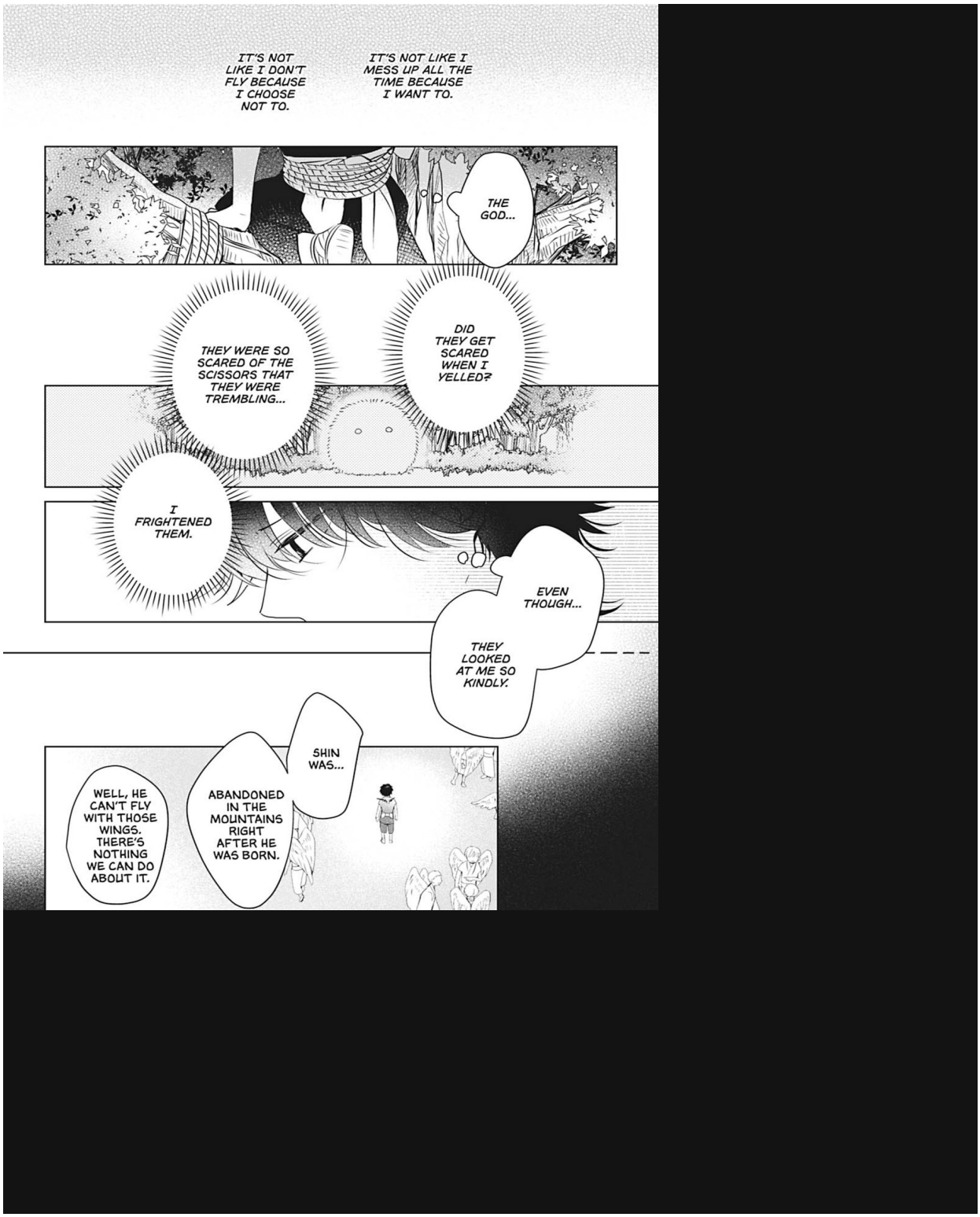
IT'S NOT LIKE I DON'T FLY BECAUSE I CHOOSE NOT TO.
IT'S NOT LIKE I MESS UP ALL THE TIME BECAUSE I WANT TO.
THE GOD...
THEY WERE SO SCARED OF THE SCISSORS THAT THEY WERE TREMBLING...
DID THEY GET SCARED WHEN I YELLED?
I FRIGHTENED THEM.
EVEN THOUGH...
THEY LOOKED AT ME SO KINDLY.
SHIN WAS...
ABANDONED IN THE MOUNTAINS RIGHT AFTER HE WAS BORN.
WELL, HE CAN'T FLY WITH THOSE WINGS. THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT IT.

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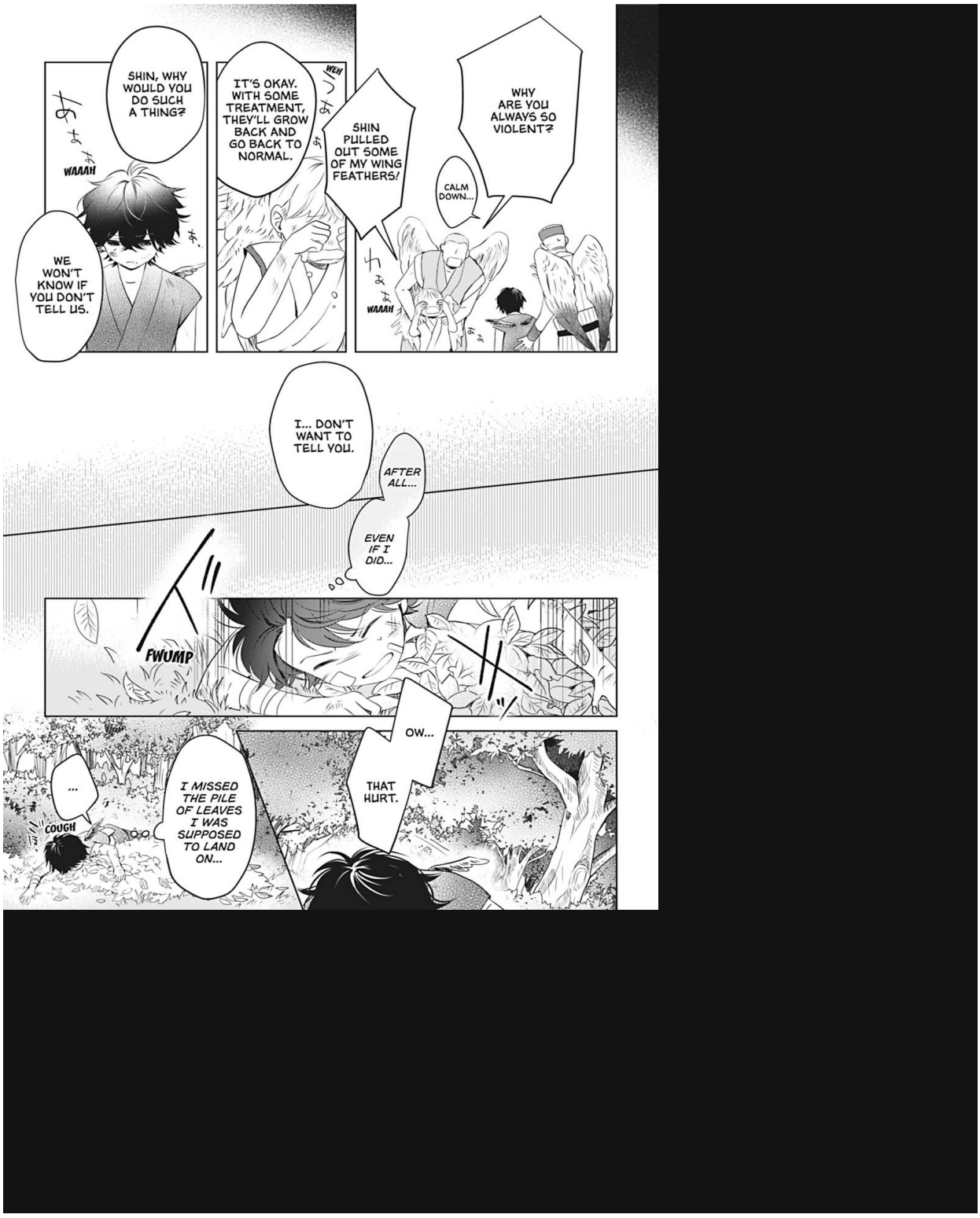
SHIN, WHY WOULD YOU DO SUCH A THING?
WAAAH
WE WON'T KNOW IF YOU DON'T TELL US.
IT'S OKAY. WITH SOME TREATMENT, THEY'LL GROW BACK AND GO BACK TO NORMAL.
WEH
SHIN PULLED OUT SOME OF MY WING FEATHERS!
WHY ARE YOU ALWAYS SO VIOLENT?
CALM DOWN...
WAAAH
I... DON'T WANT TO TELL YOU.
AFTER ALL...
EVEN IF I DID...
FWUMP
OW...
THAT HURT.
...
COUGH
I MISSED THE PILE OF LEAVES I WAS SUPPOSED TO LAND ON...

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I WAS ONLY IN THE AIR FOR A MOMENT.
FALLING IS...
PAIN-FUL...
AND SCARY.
COUGH
HACK
WE WON'T KNOW IF YOU DON'T TELL US.
PANT
YOU WOULDN'T GET IT EVEN IF I DID.
AND TALK ABOUT ME BEHIND MY BACK.
PEOPLE TREAT ME LIKE A CRIMINAL...
I WAS ABANDONED BECAUSE I WAS UNWANTED.
ALL OF THAT...
BECAUSE OF MY WINGS THAT WON'T LET ME FLY.
I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO'S DIFFERENT...

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I SEE...
ALSO, WE HAVEN'T DISCOVERED WHERE THE GODS AND MESSENGERS THAT DISAPPEARED FROM THE TWENTY-SECOND, TWENTY-THIRD, AND THIRTY-FIRST MOUNTAINS HAVE GONE.
WE STILL HAVEN'T FIGURED OUT WHAT THEY ARE.
AS FOR THE DISTURBING SPIRITS THAT KEEP APPEARING...
ROLL
SEND AN OFFICIAL EMERGENCY NOTICE TO EVERYONE AT ONCE.
INCREASE THE WATCHMEN PATROLLING THE MOUNTAINS BY ONE MORE LEVEL.
24
10
22
21
30
23
31
32
CLICK
YES, SIR!
SERI AND THE OTHERS WILL PASS BY ON THEIR WAY HOME, SO...
I TOLD THEM TO MAKE SURE TO CHECK IT OUT.
ALSO...
YOU ASKED US TO KEEP AN EYE ON THE THIRTY-SECOND MOUNTAIN.

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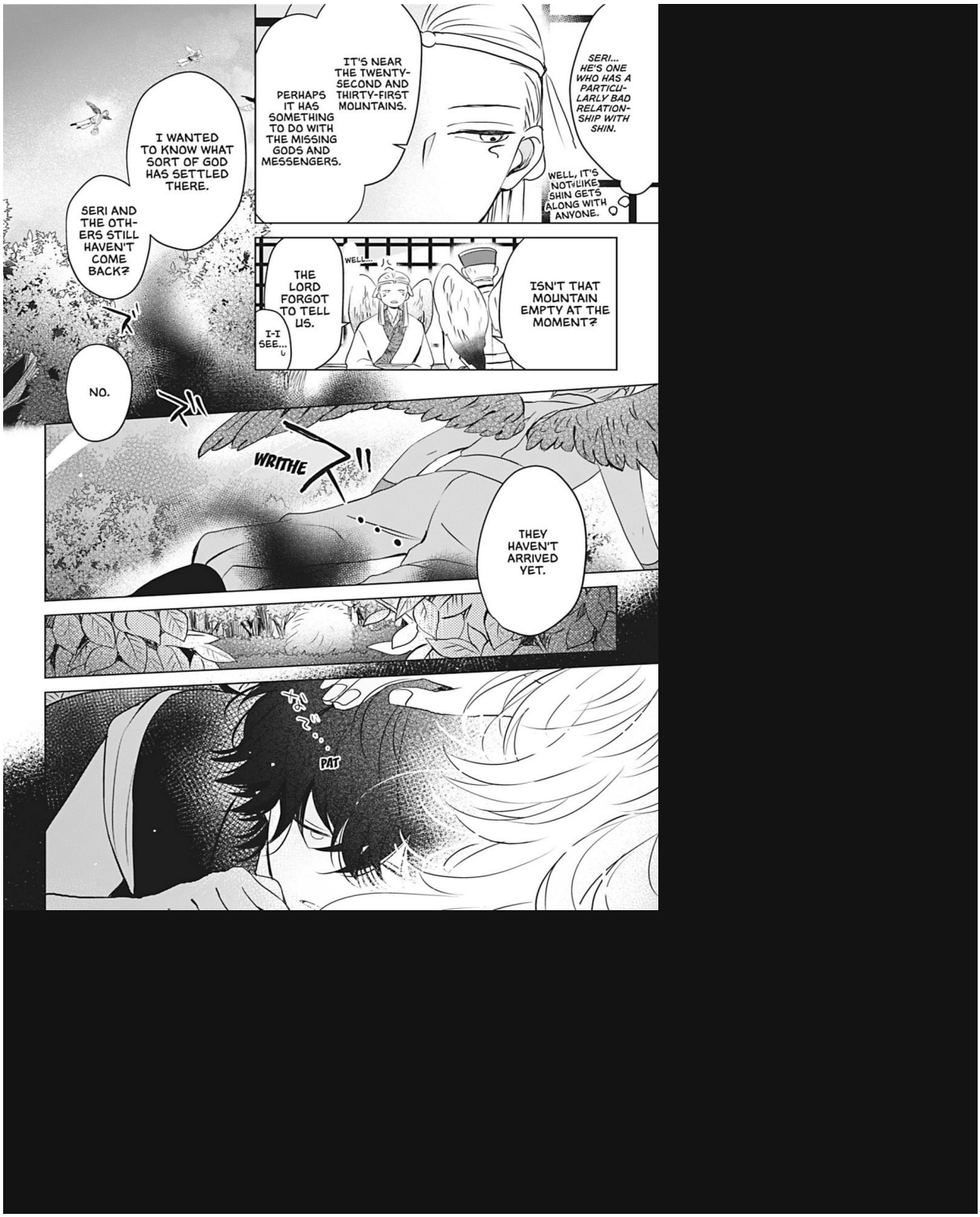
SERI... HE'S ONE WHO HAS A PARTICULARLY BAD RELATIONSHIP WITH SHIN.
WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE SHIN GETS ALONG WITH ANYONE.
IT'S NEAR THE TWENTY-SECOND AND THIRTY-FIRST MOUNTAINS.
PERHAPS IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE MISSING GODS AND MESSENGERS.
I WANTED TO KNOW WHAT SORT OF GOD HAS SETTLED THERE.
SERI AND THE OTHERS STILL HAVEN'T COME BACK?
WELL...
ISN'T THAT MOUNTAIN EMPTY AT THE MOMENT?
THE LORD FORGOT TO TELL US.
I-I SEE...
NO.
WRITHE
THEY HAVEN'T ARRIVED YET.
なで...
PAT

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Chapter 2
YOU'RE COVERED IN SCRAPES AGAIN.
WRAP
WELL...
YOU SHOULD PAY NO MIND TO THOSE WHO TEASE YOU.
EVEN IF YOU CAN'T FLY, YOU'LL STILL BECOME A MESSENGER TO THE GODS SOMEDAY.
HEY!
LEAN

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46

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DON'T SURPRISE ME LIKE THAT. I THOUGHT YOU WERE SANZASHI-SENSEI.
URK.
HE'S LOOKING FOR YOU, BY THE WAY.
YATSUDE...
I SEE...
I'M DOING THIS BECAUSE SENSEI ASKED.
I'D REFUSE EVEN IF YOU DID.
I DIDN'T ASK YOU TO.
BUT DOES THAT MEAN I HAVE TO LOOK AFTER YOU FOREVER?
I KNOW WE SAT NEXT TO EACH OTHER WHEN WE WERE STUDENTS...
EXCELLENT STUDENT
POOR STUDENT
HE TOLD YOU THAT YOU HAD TO REPORT BACK, DIDN'T HE?
OBVIOUSLY.
IS HE MAD?

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LISTEN HERE.
YOU'RE NOT AN OFFICIAL MESSENGER JUST BECAUSE YOU WERE FINALLY ASSIGNED TO A GOD.
YOU HAVE TO BE COMPATIBLE AND THE GOD HAS TO DECIDE IF THEY WANT YOU AROUND.
YOU'RE IN A TRIAL PERIOD RIGHT NOW.
I KNOW THAT...
PLUS, YOU'RE BASICALLY KING OF THE DROPOUTS.
SANZASHI-SENSEI IS WORRIED ABOUT YOU CAUSING PROBLEMS FOR THE GOD.
SHUT UP! I KNOW! I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING!
THUNK
DROPOUT
NOT YET, ANYWAY!
RUSTLE
HUH?
WHAT'S YOUR GOD LIKE, ANYWAY?
UM... THEY'RE LIKE...
A HUGE FURBALL.
BUT THEY HAVE EYES, EARS, AND HANDS... THOUGH I HAVEN'T SEEN A MOUTH.
UGH...
I DON'T GET IT. GIVE ME MORE DETAILS.
BRIGHTEN
OH, BUT THEY SEEM REALLY NICE!
THEY'RE SUPER FLUFFY, WITH THESE BIG, EXPRESSIVE EYES.
...

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THE MOUNTAINS ARE FULL OF OUR LORD'S SPIRITUAL POWER, BUT IT DOESN'T REACH ALL PARTS OF THEM IN THE SAME WAY.
THE CLOSER TO THE HIGHEST PEAK, THE DENSER HIS SPIRIT IS SINCE IT'S CLOSER TO OUR LORD. IT'S LIGHTER AT THE FOOT.
THE HIGH-RANKING GODS WHO HAVE POWERS THAT ARE COMPATIBLE WITH OUR LORD'S PURE SPIRIT STAY UP TOP, ON THE MOUNTAINS WITH SMALLER NUMBERS.
THE GODS WHO CAN'T WITHSTAND THE STRENGTH OF HIS SPIRIT MUST STAY TOWARD THE BOTTOM.
WHAT IS IT?
THIS MOUNTAIN IS GUARDED BY OUR LORD.
HUH?
FLAP
HEY, JERK!
27
13
26
1
4
6
18
17
2
30

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I FEEL LIKE I'VE HEARD THAT IN CLASS BEFORE. OR MAYBE I DIDN'T.
WHY AREN'T YOU SURE ABOUT THAT?
UP I GO.
GODS WHO CAN'T WITHSTAND OUR LORD'S SPIRITUAL POWER ARE MORE PRONE TO CHAOS.
AN EMBODIMENT OF CHAOS MIGHT EVEN SLIP IN.
MESSENGERS ARE CHOSEN BY THE GODS, BUT WE ALSO MUST BE ABLE TO TELL THE DIFFERENCE.
SHIN...
OUT OF THE THIRTY-TWO MOUNTAINS...

52

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HE WAS RIGHT BEHIND ME, BUT WHEN I LOOKED BACK, HE WAS GONE.
IT WAS WHEN WE WERE PASSING OVER THE THIRTY-SECOND MOUNTAIN!
SERI...
HE TRIED TO PICK A FIGHT WITH SHIN YESTERDAY.
THERE'S NO WAY HE WENT MISSING IN A SINGLE MOMENT.
HE WASN'T IN THE SKY...
!
MAYBE THAT GOD DID SOMETHING TO HIM...
A GOD RECENTLY MOVED IN ON THE THIRTY-SECOND MOUNTAIN, RIGHT?
B-BUT...
THE GOD HEARD US INSULT YOU...
RIGHT AFTER THAT, SERI DISAP-PEARED.
YOU WANNA GO?
SHAKE
PLUS...
SHAKE
OF COURSE THEY DIDN'T!
DON'T JUST SAY WHATEVER COMES TO MIND!
UGH...
IRK
54

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DON'T LUMP THEM TOGETHER!
BUT MY GOD IS DIFFERENT!
THE THIRTY-SECOND MOUNTAIN IS THE ONE CLOSEST TO THE BOTTOM!
THAT MOUNTAIN'S PREVIOUS GOD MOVED THERE FOR OUR LORD'S SPIRITUAL ENERGY...
BUT THEY COULDN'T HANDLE IT, SO THEY ENDED UP FALLING TO CHAOS.
THE MESSENGER BECAME A VICTIM...
NOT LISTENING
I TOLD HIM IT WAS A TRIAL PERIOD.
HE'S ALREADY CLAIMING THEM AS HIS...
UM... OH.
M-
MAYBE YOU MADE THE GOD DO IT TO GET BACK AT US FOR YOU.
HUH?
FOR SOMETHING LIKE THAT...
I WOULDN'T HAVE TO RELY ON A GOD.
HEH
I'LL DO IT MYSELF!
SHOVE

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SERI HASN'T BEEN MISSING FOR THAT LONG.
PEOPLE ARE SEARCHING FOR HIM, SO-
YOU SHOULDN'T ACCUSE PEOPLE BASED ON PURE SPECULATION.
MY GOD HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT!
HAVEN'T YOU EVER HEARD OF SELF-CONTROL?
BUT YOU'RE ALWAYS READY TO THROW A PUNCH!
I THOUGHT I WOULD JUST WATCH...
GRRR
I'M TELLING YOU! HE WAS WITH ME THE WHOLE TIME TOO.
SNUGGLE
SHIN...
HUH?
IT MOVED! I GUESS IT'S NOT A FURBALL.
THE GOD GAVE IT TO ME WHEN I LEFT.
WHAT IS THAT?
56

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YOU BROUGHT IT ALL THE WAY HERE?
?
YEAH...
WAS I NOT SUPPOSED TO?
SUCH A SHORT TIME...
AND YOU'VE ALREADY OPENED YOUR HEART TO THE GOD OF THE THIRTY-SECOND MOUNTAIN.
HUH?
YOU SAID YOU WERE THERE THE WHOLE TIME.
CAN YOU TRUTHFULLY SAY...
THAT YOU DIDN'T LOOK AWAY...
EVEN FOR AN INSTANT?
!
WELL...

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WHAT WAS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
CLENCH
MAYBE THEY DIDN'T LIKE ANY OF MY OFFERINGS...
OR MAYBE THEY'RE NOT HUNGRY.
IF NONE OF THOSE THINGS WILL DO, I WONDER WHAT THEY WILL ACCEPT...
MY GOD DIDN'T TOUCH ANYTHING I BROUGHT.
WHAT WILL SATISFY THEM?
SHAKE
THAT CAN'T BE IT!
EVEN IF THAT'S WHAT THE GOD EATS...
I'D BE THE FIRST ONE EATEN SINCE I'M RIGHT THERE!

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SO...
I MEAN...
YOU'VE ALREADY OPENED YOUR HEART...
THEY WERE SO KIND.
THE WAY THEY LOOK AT ME...
THE WAY THEY PAT ME...
IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I'D EVER BEEN HELD SO KINDLY.

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63

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65

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IF WE LEAVE YOU BEHIND, YOU'LL DIE!
I DON'T WANT TO!
BUT...
NO, I WON'T!
DON'T ACT LIKE THAT! WE CAN'T TAKE IT ON!
YOU TOO! PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER.
STOP LEANING ON ME AND FLY.
FWAP
I-I'M TOO WEAK...
JUST DO IT.
WHA...
WHAT ELSE ARE THOSE HUGE WINGS FOR?
YOU MADE FUN OF MY WINGS AND LOOKED DOWN ON ME THIS WHOLE TIME.
FLY LIKE YOUR LIFE DEPENDS ON IT.

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ISN'T MY GOD.
WELL, EVEN IF SOMEONE ASKED, I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO EXPLAIN HOW I KNOW.
YEAH.
BUT IT'S DEFINITELY NOT.
I CAN TELL.
I'D BET MY DINNER ON IT.
AH...
UPSY-DAISY.
I FEEL SLUGGISH...
I JUST HAVE TO MAKE SURE IT DOESN'T GET NEAR MY GOD UNTIL HELP ARRIVES.
FOR THE TIME BEING...
WELL, WHATEVER. IT'S DANGEROUS, SO I'LL BRING YOU BACK FOR NOW...
WHOOSH
?!
HUH?
IT'S FAST...
YOU SUCKED UP THAT CHAOS EARLIER...
I SHOULD HAVE ASKED.
ANYWAY, WHAT ARE YOU? A PART OF THE GOD?

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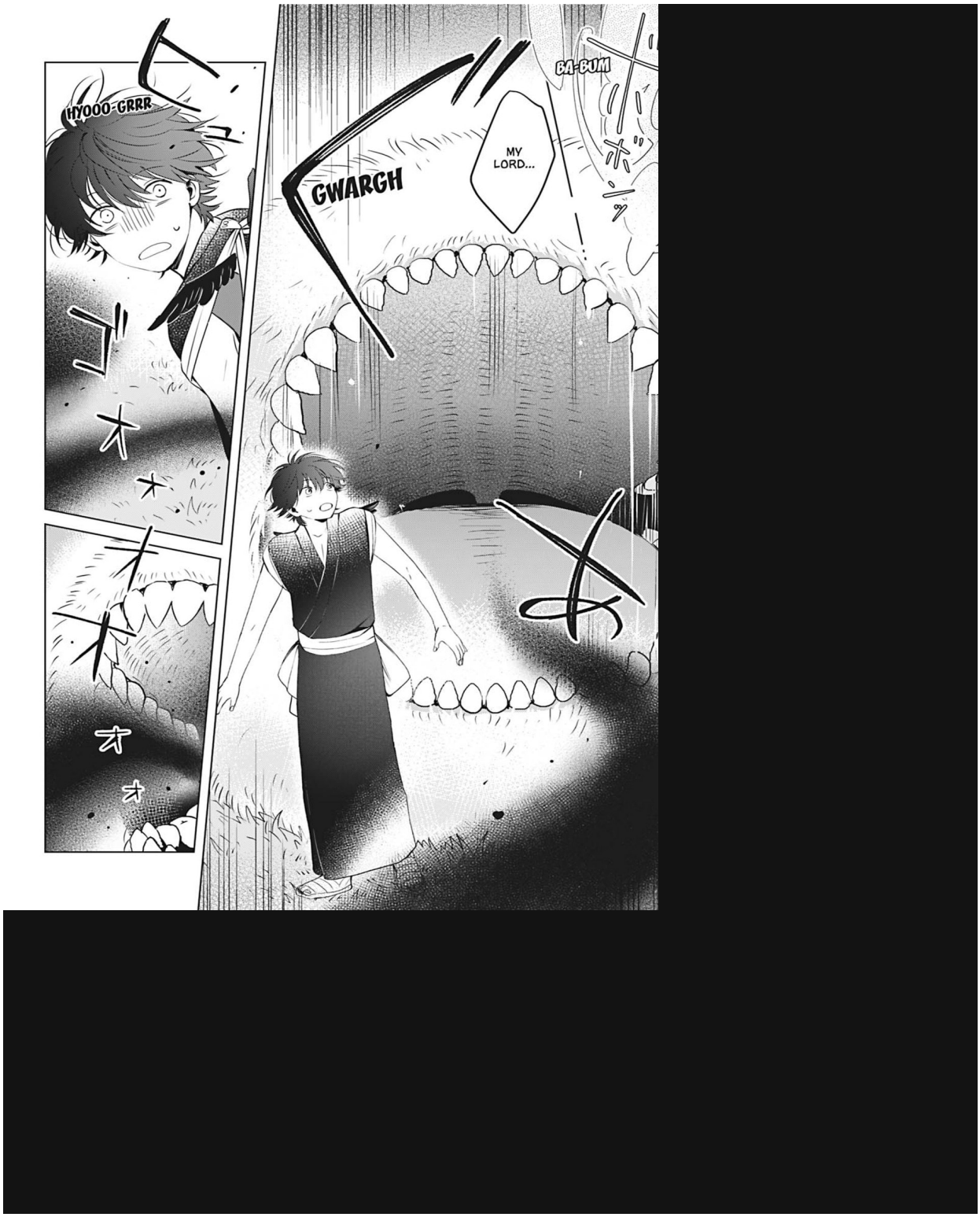

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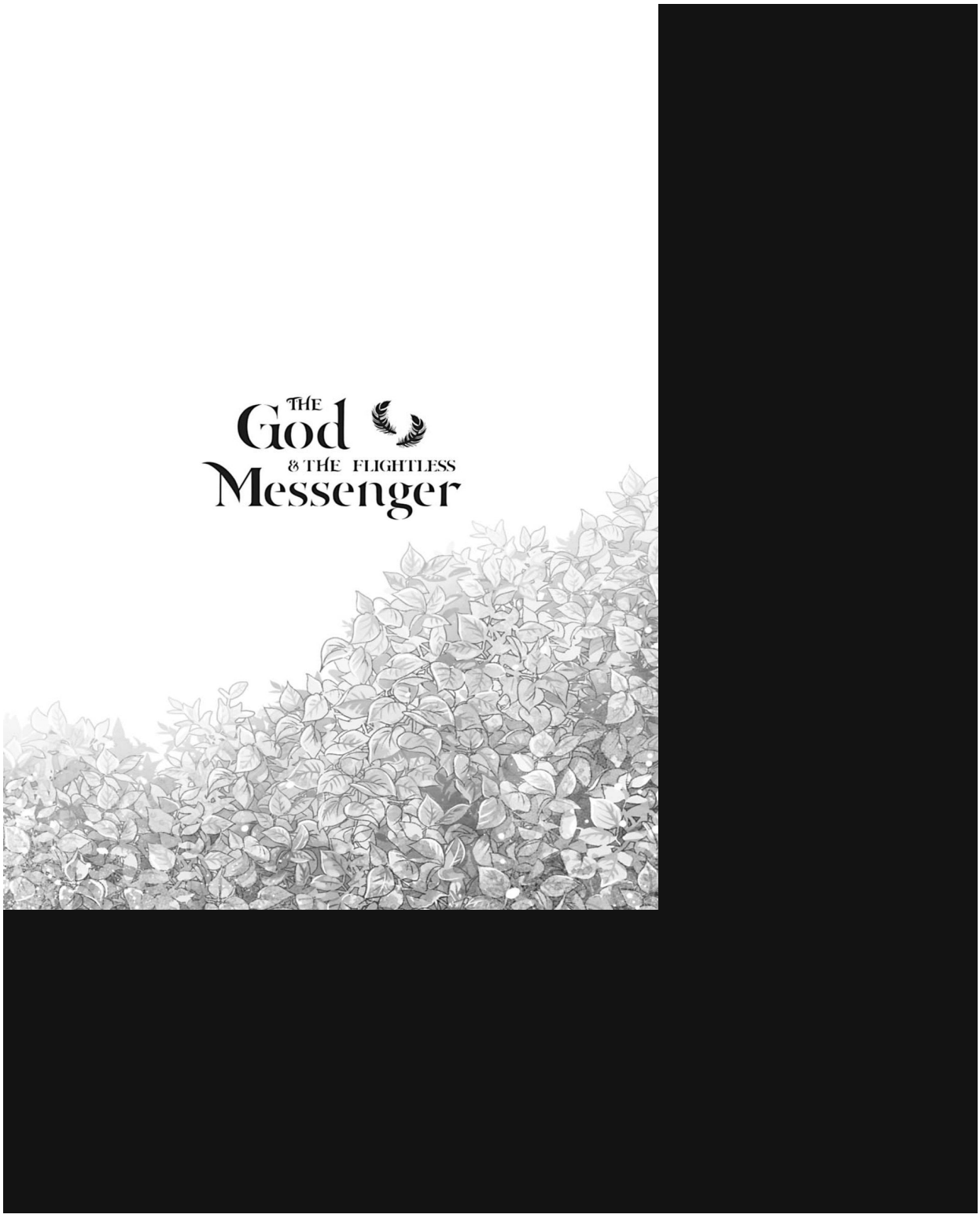

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I HEARD THAT HE WAS COVERED IN CHAOS. IT'S AMAZING THAT HE'S STILL ALIVE.
YES. HIS NAME IS SERI.
THE MISSING BOY CAME BACK, DIDN'T HE?
SHUT
HE PROBABLY RAN RIGHT BACK TO THAT GOD.
THE CHILDREN SAY THERE WAS A MASSIVE BALL OF CHAOS...
HAZY
BUT THE GUARDS DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING LIKE THAT WHEN THEY ARRIVED.
THERE WAS JUST THE MESSENGER COLLAPSED ON THE GROUND.
YOU KNOW, THE ONE WITH THE TINY WINGS.
OH, HIM!
MAYBE THE CHAOS DISPERSED TO SOME OTHER MOUNTAIN.
IT WAS THE THIRTY-SECOND MOUNTAIN, WASN'T IT?
I HEARD A RUMOR THAT THE GOD OF THAT MOUNTAIN TOOK CARE OF IT.
WHAT?

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THERE'S NO WAY THEY COULD HAVE DONE THAT.
JUST COMING INTO CONTACT WITH CHAOS WOULD ABSOLUTELY TARNISH THEIR SPIRIT.
ANY GOD WOULD WEAKEN IMMEDIATELY IF THEY DID THAT.
EVEN OUR GREAT LORD TAKES A LOT OF CARE TO PROTECT HIMSELF.
OH, SPEAKING OF THE LORD...
HE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE DOING WELL LATELY.
MAYBE HE'S BEEN DRINKING TOO MUCH.
SANZASHI-SAMA IS GOING TO GET MAD AT HIM AGAIN.
...
RUSTLE
SLOSH

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AM I NOT TRUST-WORTHY ENOUGH?
...
UGH... THEY'RE MORE STUBBORN THAN I THOUGHT.
WHEEZE
PANT
I'M YOUR MESSEN-GER...
I'M ALWAYS BY YOUR SIDE...
BUT I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT YOU.
I WISH I DID, THOUGH.
BUT IF YOU DON'T WANT TO TELL ME, I SHOULDN'T FORCE YOU TO.
I'M SORRY FOR TICK-LING YOU SO MUCH.
I'M GOING TO CLEAR MY HEAD.

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92

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IF WE DON'T TAKE CARE OF IT, THE CHAOS WILL...
OH, YEAH... HE'S AFRAID OF THEM.
OH.
I BROUGHT SCISSORS TODAY.
I THOUGHT ABOUT CUTTING IT WHEN YOU WERE A FLUFFBALL TOO.
!
SCISSORS!
THAT'S...
WHAT MAKES UP MY DIET.
I DON'T NEED ANY OTHER FOOD.
JUST BEING TOUCHED BY CHAOS CAN LEAD TO A GOD'S DESTRUCTION, BUT THIS ONE... ACTUALLY ATE IT.
HE ATE THE CHAOS.
UM... DO YOU FEEL SICK?
YOU ATE IT...

93

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HE LOOKS AT ME WITH SUCH KIND EYES.
HE ALWAYS HAS, EVER SINCE WE MET.
WHY?
I'VE NEVER DONE ANYTHING FOR HIM.
I'VE ONLY EVER ANGERED OR EXASPERATED PEOPLE.
IT MAKES ME A LITTLE UNCOM-FORTABLE.
HUH? IT HAPPENED AGAIN...
?
...ARE YOU READY?

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IT SOUNDS LIKE HE'S CUT HIS HAIR BEFORE.
SNIP
SNIP
...ARE YOU USED TO CUTTING HAIR?
YES!
I THOUGHT IT'D BE GOOD TO PRACTICE FOR WHEN I BECAME A MESSENGER AND THE TIME CAME FOR ME TO TAKE CARE OF A GOD.
SNIP
I WAS REALLY BAD IN THE BEGINNING. I INJURED SOME OF THE PEOPLE I PRACTICED ON OR EVEN MADE THEM CRY.
WHO WAS IT THAT CRIED AGAIN?
I DON'T REMEMBER...
SNIP
MY LORD...
SNICK

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HAVE YOU ALWAYS BEEN ALONE?
...YES.
THERE ISN'T A GOD OR A BEAST...
WHO FEEDS ON CHAOS JUST BECAUSE THEY LIKE IT.
EVERYONE WAS AFRAID OF ME FOR BEING DIFFERENT.
THAT'S TERRIBLE!
?!
KA-KUT

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I-I'M ALL RIGHT.
I RECOGNIZE HIM NOW.
HAVE WE MET BEFORE?
BUT...
THE MORE I TRY TO REMEMBER...
THE MORE THE MEMORY SLIPS AWAY FROM ME.
YEAH...
THIS IS BETTER.
HUH?
THE WAY YOU'RE SPEAKING NOW...
I'M GLAD YOU'RE NOT TRYING TO BE SO POLITE ANYMORE.

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I'M NOT THAT IMPORTANT.
I WON'T BE ABLE TO RELAX IF YOU REVERE ME.
BUT I'M YOUR SERVANT...
AND YOU'RE A GOD.
UM... BUT...
I'D LIKE YOU TO...
IF YOU COULD...
GIVE ME A NAME.
SMILE
A NAME?!
THIS IS IMPORTANT!
IT FEELS A LITTLE SAD TO CONSTANTLY BE CALLED "MY LORD"...
SO YOU CAN CALL ME WHATEVER YOU WANT.

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THAT WORKS.
THANKS, SHIN.
WHAT?
IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, WE DON'T HAVE TO GO WITH THAT.
I JUST THOUGHT IT WAS A GOOD FIT.
NO...
IF...
FWAP
GASP
I'VE BEEN ON YOUR LAP THIS WHOLE TIME.
IF THIS FAINT MEMORY OF MINE REALLY HAPPENED...
WHY CAN'T I REMEMBER IT PROPERLY?
AFTER ALL...

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I'M FINE. THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
WRITHE
I KNOW IT HAPPENED AT THE FOOT OF THE MOUNTAINS THIS TIME, BUT CHAOS WOULD NEVER HAVE TAKEN SHAPE LIKE THAT BEFORE.
I THOUGHT HE WOULD HAVE—
SANZASHI.
IS THIS WHY THE SPIRITUAL ENERGY AROUND THE MOUNTAINS HAS BEEN UNSTABLE?
NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT?
YOU'RE COVERED IN CHAOS!
SINCE WHEN?
PANT
PANT
THE BOY ON THE THIRTY-SECOND MOUNTAIN...
STOP IT, SANZASHI.
MAYBE THAT'S WHY—
AND EVEN NOW HE HOLDS A GRUDGE BECAUSE OF THAT.
SO...
HE'S THE ONE THAT GOT THROWN OUT OF HERE.

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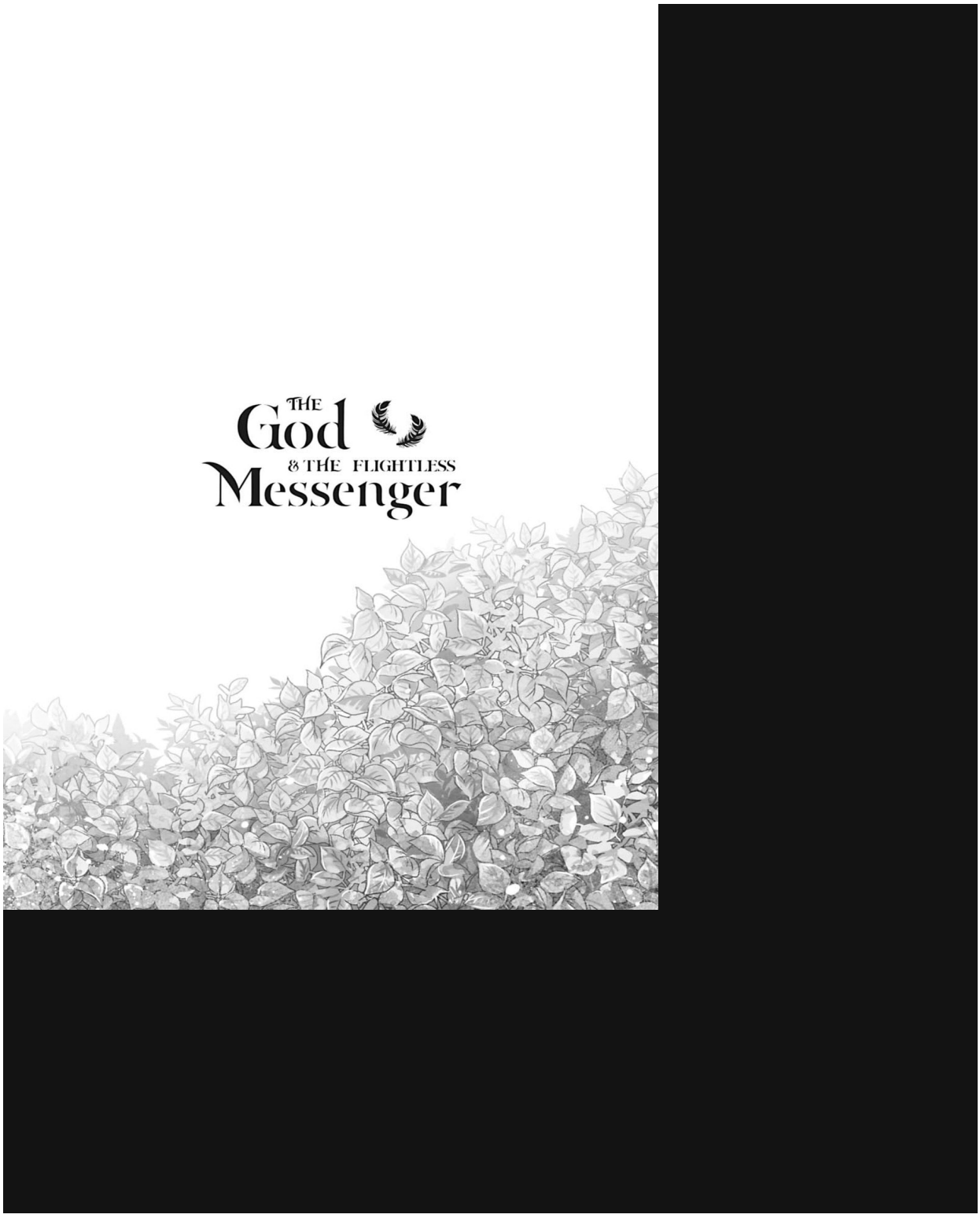

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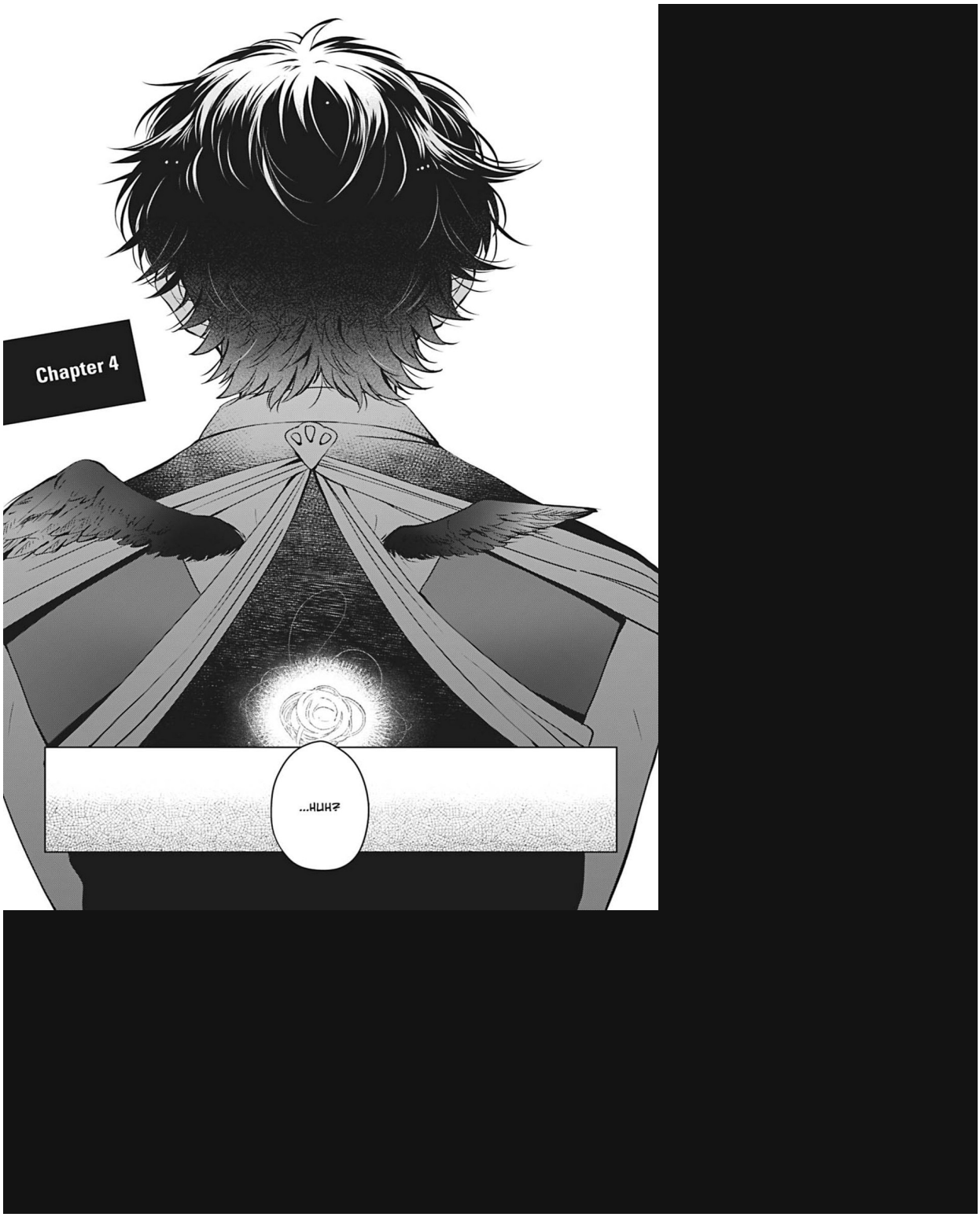

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IT...
ぽっ
BRIGHT EYES
ちり
IT HAS EYES...
IF I COMB IT TOO MUCH, WILL THE GOD GET TICKLISH?
DOES IT HAVE EARS TOO?
I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST A BALL OF FLUFF.
SIGH
I DON'T REALLY GET IT.
WE TALKED ABOUT IT BECAUSE I WAS CURIOUS...
BUT I ONLY ENDED UP WITH MORE QUES-TIONS.
NOT JUST ABOUT THIS, THOUGH.

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WE'VE MET BEFORE.
I'M SURE OF IT.
AT LEAST...
I THINK SO...
UGH...
AAARGH...
I HAVE THE IMAGE OF US BEING FRIENDS...
SO WHY CAN'T I REMEMBER ANYTHING ELSE?
GRIT
GRIT
ARGH.
THE MORE I TRY TO REMEMBER, THE MORE CONFUSED I GET! THE LESS CONFIDENT I BECOME!
WHY?!
IT'S LIKE NOT BEING ABLE TO REACH AN ITCH!

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GET INTO IT!
YOU NEED TO WANT IT!
KEEP IT UP!
BOING
BOINING
THEY'RE FIRED UP...
...
OH! IT'S YATSUDE!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?
I-I'M SORRY...
BYEBYE!
WHY ARE YOU BOUNCING ON THE GOD YOU'RE SERVING? YOU'RE NOT A KID.
DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND THAT YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE SERVING HIM?
*THESE THREE RAN AWAY.

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I'M VERY SORRY FOR MY SUDDEN VISIT AND MY RUDE QUESTIONS...
IT'S A RUMOR THAT'S BEEN GOING AROUND.
I KNOW I SHOULDN'T JUST BELIEVE IT...
BUT IF IT'S TRUE, THERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU.
MY GOD IS BEING CONSUMED BY CHAOS.
NORMALLY, THE GREAT LORD'S SPIRIT IS VERY DENSE AROUND THERE...
SO THERE'S NO WAY CHAOS SHOULD BE ABLE TO CREEP IN...
YATSUDE, DON'T YOU SERVE THE GOD ON THE SIXTH MOUNTAIN?
I DO.

123

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MY GOD CAN ONLY LIVE WITHIN PURE SPIRITUAL ENERGY.
IF THE CHAOS CONTINUES TO SPREAD, SHE'LL...
PLEASE.
I KNOW I'M BEING RUDE.
I'LL DO ANYTHING YOU ASK ME TO.
YATSUDE...
IF THOSE RUMORS... REALLY ARE TRUE...
B-BAKU...
WHISPER
HE'S ALWAYS SUCH A PRIM PERSON.
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN HIM LOOK SO DESPERATE...
124

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WHAT ON EARTH...?
FOR A GOD FROM THE FOOT OF THE MOUNTAINS, THE SPIRITUAL ENERGY AROUND HERE SHOULD BE TOO PURE FOR HIM TO HANDLE.
I'VE NEVER HEARD OF A GOD WHO COULD EAT CHAOS.
WELL, WHATEVER IT IS...
WHAT MATTERS MOST IS SAVING MY GOD.
THAT'S MY PRIORITY.
BUT...
SHIN'S IS...
JERK
AH!

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WHY DOES HE LOOK LIKE HE UNDERSTANDS EVERYTHING?
EARLIER...
GRIT!
DING
IT'S NICE THAT YOU GOT THIS CHANCE THEN.
HA-HA...
HIS FACE IS AN OPEN BOOK.
I SEE.
SMILE
SMILE
EXHALE
SO I THOUGHT I'D LIKE TO HELP HIM IF HE EVER NEEDED IT...
HE'S NEVER MADE FUN OF MY WINGS...
HE HAS A BIG MOUTH, BUT HE'S A GOOD GUY, DEEP DOWN.
I WAS HAPPY BECAUSE...
GRIN
YOU SAID I LOOKED HAPPY.
WHEN WE WERE WALKING EARLIER...
DID YOU THINK IT WAS BECAUSE I WAS HAPPY THAT I COULD HELP YATSUDE OUT?
THE GOD I SERVE IS A KIND GOD.
I'M REALLY HAPPY I GET TO WORK FOR YOU.
WRONG!
BZZT!
UM... YES.
HUH?

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IF HE TOLD ME IT WASN'T HIM...
OR THAT HE DIDN'T REMEMBER...
I SHOULD HAVE ASKED!
UGH!
BUT...
I MEAN...
THERE WAS SOMEONE I WAS CLOSE WITH...
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN — HIM.
EVEN THOUGH I'M THE ONE WHO CAN'T REALLY RE-MEMBER IT.
I WOULDN'T LIKE IT.
BUT WHY?
I CAN'T REMEMBER PROPERLY...
BUT I DON'T THINK I'M WRONG. PLUS...
I DON'T WANT IT TO BE ANYONE ELSE.
I'LL JUST DO IT.
TURN
I'LL ASK!
I'M CURIOUS.
UM...

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SHE WAS PROTECTING HERSELF WITH THE LITTLE POWER SHE HAD LEFT TO STOP ANY MORE CHAOS FROM AFFECTING HER.
SO YOU'RE BEING RUDE.
I-I'M VERY SORRY...
IT'S FINE.
IT'S PATHET-IC, BUT I COULDN'T RETURN THIS PLACE TO ITS FORMER PURE STATE.
SPLASH
THANK YOU.
YOU HELPED ME IM-MENSELY.
I'M GLAD...
BAKU!
LOOK!
THE RIVER WATER IS REALLY CLEAR. IT'S SO NICE!
YATSUDE WAS REALLY WOR-RIED.
REALLY?
138

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BLINK
HUH?
BAKU?
SHE'S HAPPY...
WHAT WAS THAT?
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
WHY? I'LL GO TOO!
MY GOD STILL HASN'T RETURNED TO HER FULL POWER, SO I CAN'T LEAVE HER ALONE.
I DON'T REALLY WANT TO LEAVE HER WITH YOU, BUT THERE ISN'T ANYONE ELSE AROUND, SO IT CAN'T BE HELPED.
WHAAAT?
YOU WANNA FIGHT?
HUH?
SORRY, SHIN, BUT YOU STAY HERE.
IS IT OKAY IF WE MOVE SOMEWHERE ELSE? I'D LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP, AND SPEAK TO YOU ABOUT OTHER MATTERS.
WHAAAT?

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I'M SORRY, BUT CAN YOU PLEASE COME WITH ME?
COMPLAIN
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID I WAS BEING RUDE EARLIER!
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS.
THEN...
WOULD YOU LIKE TO CHAT WITH ME WHILE YOU WAIT?
GLANCE
OKAY.
...HUH?

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ALSO...
YOU DON'T LOOK WELL.
NO, PLEASE LET ME.
I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING TO WARRANT THAT.
IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO IN RETURN TO EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE, PLEASE LET ME KNOW.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR HELPING ME WITH THIS.
DOES SHIN KNOW?
I'LL DIGEST IT LATER.
IT'S NOT A PROBLEM.
...OKAY.
WHEN YOU INGEST CHAOS?
DOES IT AFFECT YOU PHYSICALLY...

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I'D NEVER SEEN HIM SMILE SO FREELY BEFORE, NOT WITH ANYONE ELSE.
HE'S ALWAYS BEEN CRITICIZED AND INSULTED BECAUSE OF HIS WINGS...
SO THERE'S A WALL BETWEEN HIM AND THE REST OF US.
SHIN...
HE ADORES YOU.
NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE...
OR WHAT KIND OF GOD YOU ARE...
HE'S A STRAIGHT-FORWARD IDIOT.
PLEASE, LET ME...

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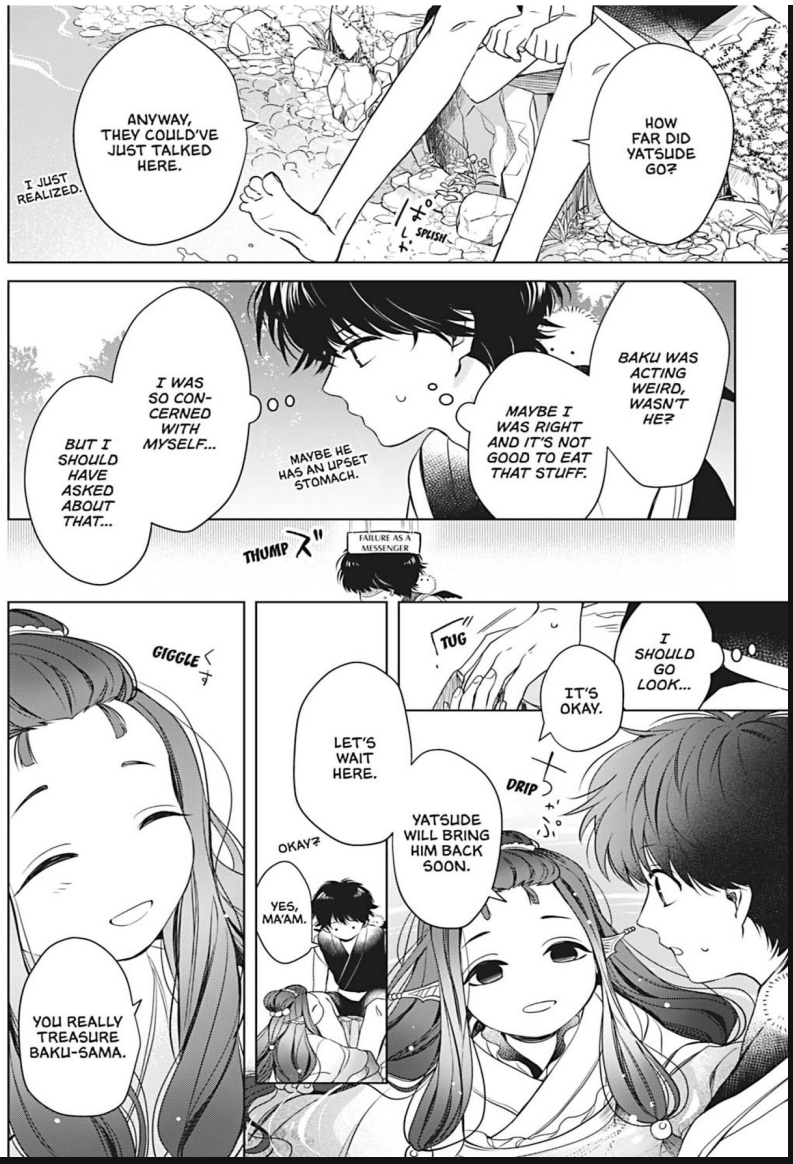

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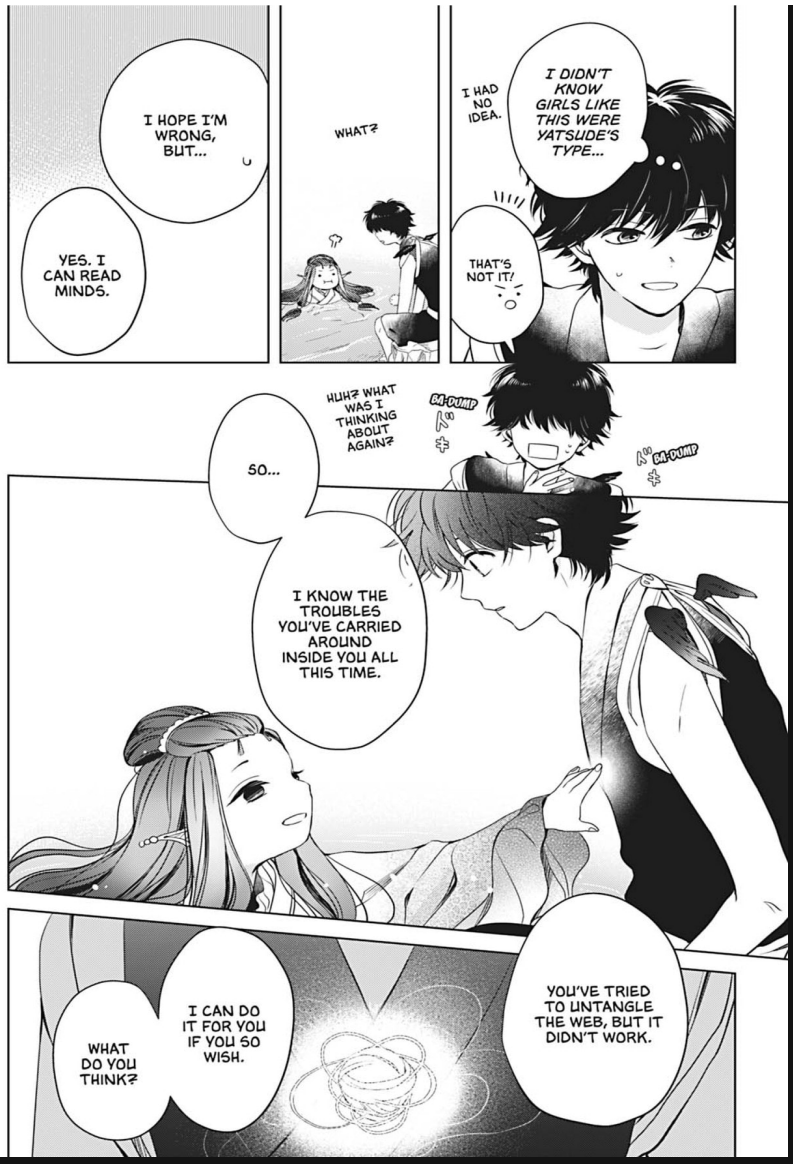
I HOPE I'M WRONG, BUT...
YES. I CAN READ MINDS.
WHAT?
I HAD NO IDEA.
I DIDN'T KNOW GIRLS LIKE THIS WERE YATSUDE'S TYPE...
THAT'S NOT IT!
HUH? WHAT WAS I THINKING ABOUT AGAIN?
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
SO...
I KNOW THE TROUBLES YOU'VE CARRIED AROUND INSIDE YOU ALL THIS TIME.
YOU'VE TRIED TO UNTANGLE THE WEB, BUT IT DIDN'T WORK.
I CAN DO IT FOR YOU IF YOU SO WISH.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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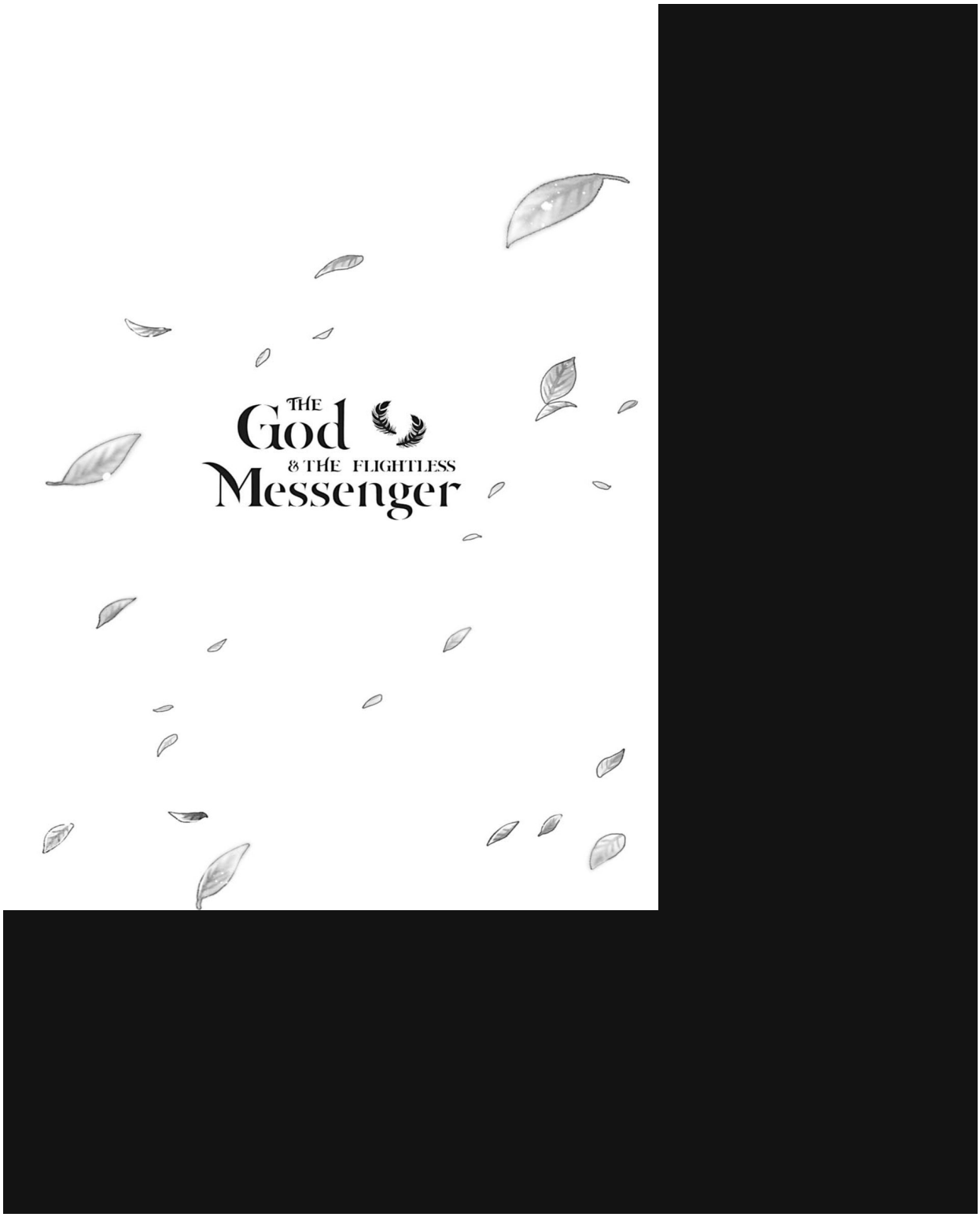

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WRITHE
BUT IT SEEMS TO ME...
I'VE NEVER WITNESSED YOU EATING BEFORE...
LIKE YOU CAN MANIPULATE THE CHAOS.
I'M JUST EATING WHAT I CAN.
SANZASHI-SAN.
IS ALL ON YOU...
TO DISTRUST AND FEAR ME FOR THAT...

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TWITCH
BUT MY LORD HAD NO HAND IN DECIDING THAT.
AT THAT TIME, THE DECISION I MADE WAS NECESSARY.
YOU HAD TO LEAVE.
I REGRET WHAT I DID.
BUT...
I SERVE THE GREAT LORD, SO I MUST PROTECT HIM AND THESE MOUNTAINS.
I KNOW WHAT HE'S TRYING TO SAY...
AND WHAT HE WANTS FROM ME.
IF IT WERE THE GREAT LORD...
HE WOULD PROBABLY GRANT HIS WISH.

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COUGH
BUT AT THIS RATE...
SO I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON...
THAT LADY SEPARATED OUR LINKED SENSES...
SO THEY'LL BE FINE.
SHIN STILL HAS THAT PART OF ME...
STAINED
NOTHING IS GOING TO WORK.
BAKU-SAMA.

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I...
BUT...
I KNOW VERY WELL THAT THIS IS SELFISH OF ME...
CAN'T BE A GOD LIKE HIM.
AFTER ALL...
OUR GREAT LORD...
THE PURITY OF HIS SPIRITUAL ENERGY...
AND THAT PLACE...

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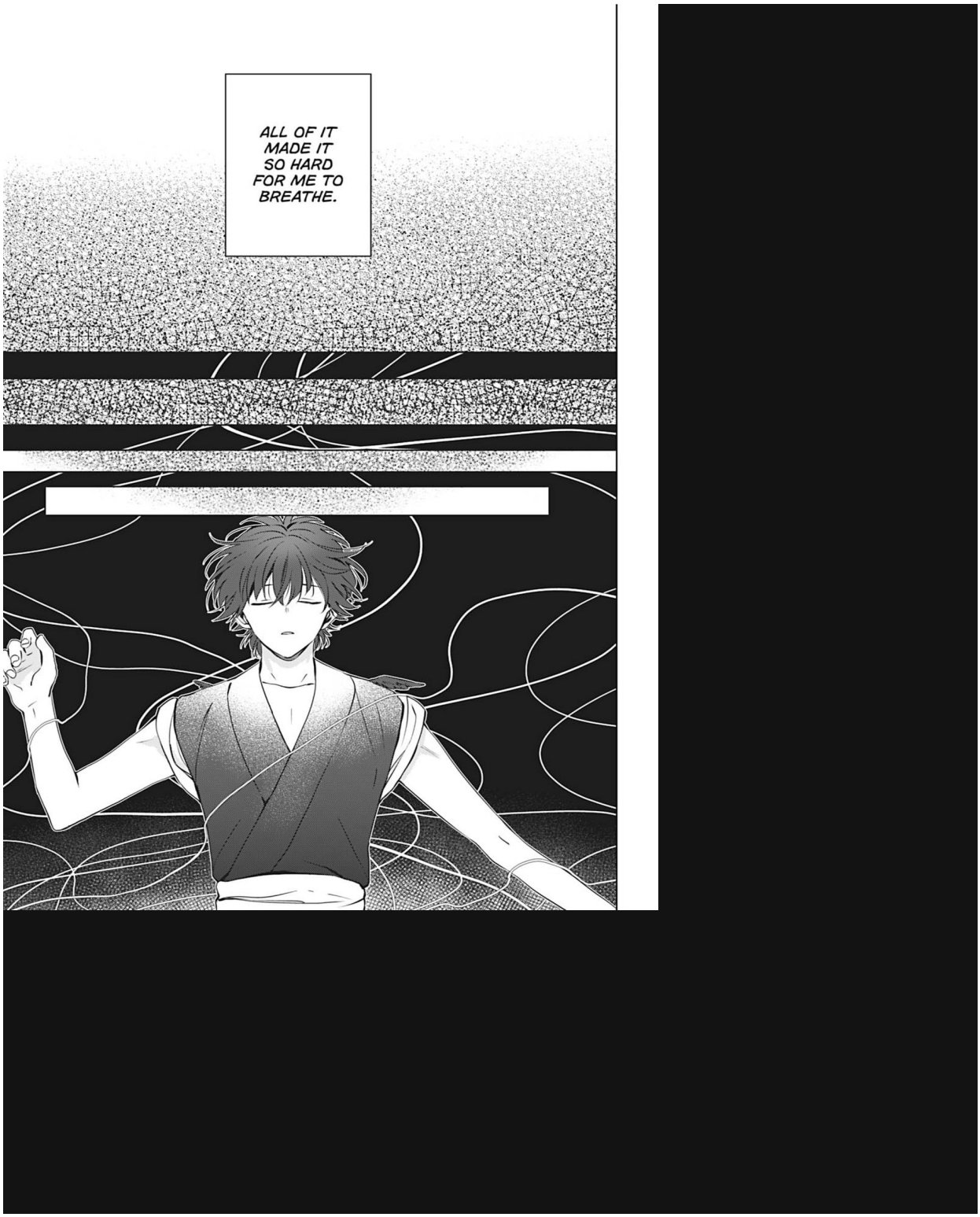

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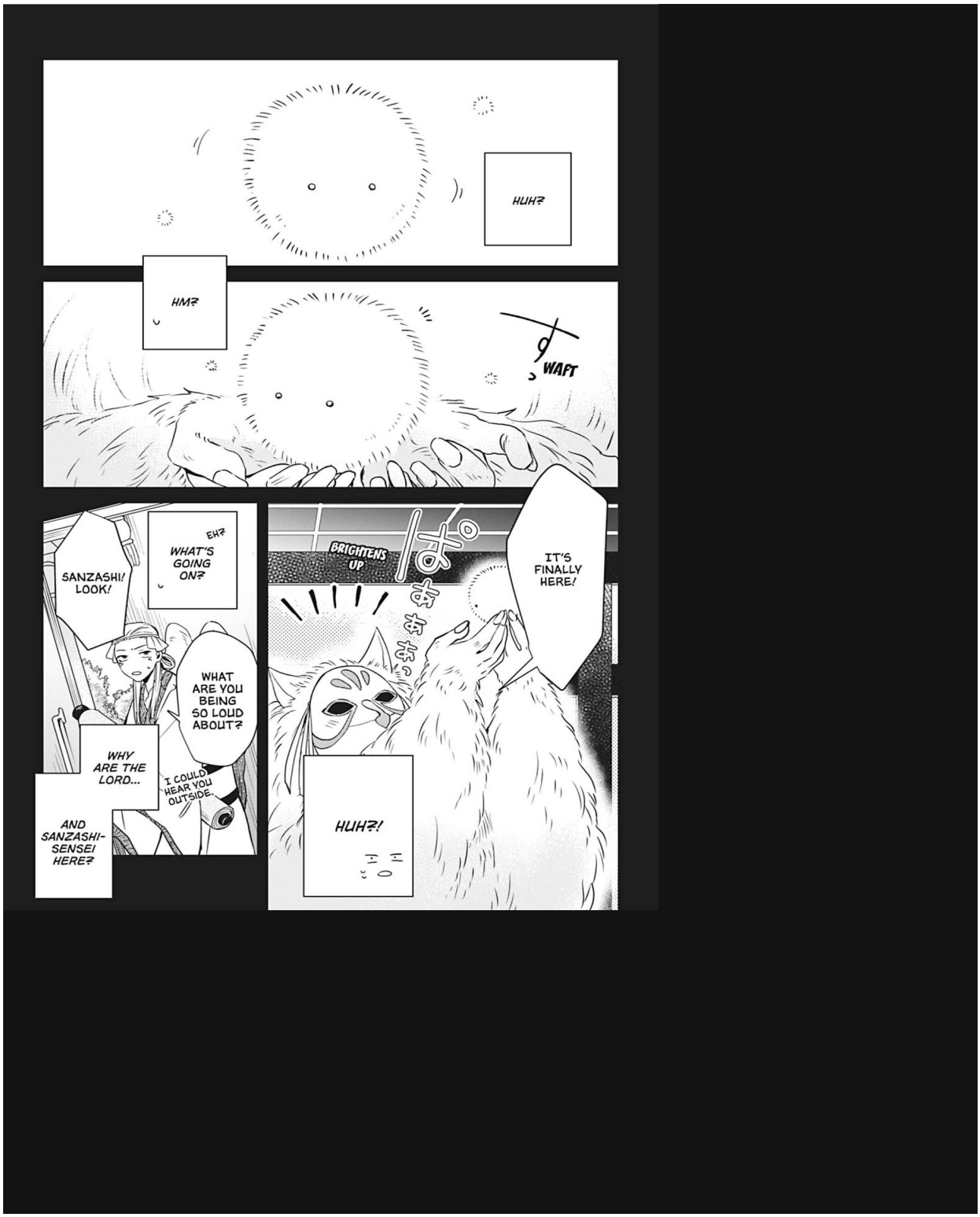

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WAIT, WHERE AM I?
LOOK!
A DREAM?
IS THIS...?
THEY'RE NOT LOOKING OR YELLING AT ME.
I'VE HAD A FEELING FOR A WHILE NOW THAT SOMETHING WAS ABOUT TO BE BORN.
IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN THE BIRTH OF A NEW GOD!
THE MYSTERY OF LIFE
IT JUST LOOKS LIKE A COTTON BALL TO ME.
WELL, I'M NOT VERY WELL-VERSED IN THE MATTERS OF THE GODS...
THIS ISN'T A DREAM.
SLEEPY
THAT'S BAKU.
NO...
NO, THAT'S NOT IT! IT JUST POPPED OUT OF MID-AIR!
I DON'T KNOW IF YOU BIRTHED IT OR MADE SOMEONE ELSE DO IT.
BUT YOU DIDN'T BIRTH IT, DID YOU?
I HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT!
?!
IF YOU HAVE A PARTNER, YOU MIGHT HAVE TO TALK ABOUT CUSTODY.

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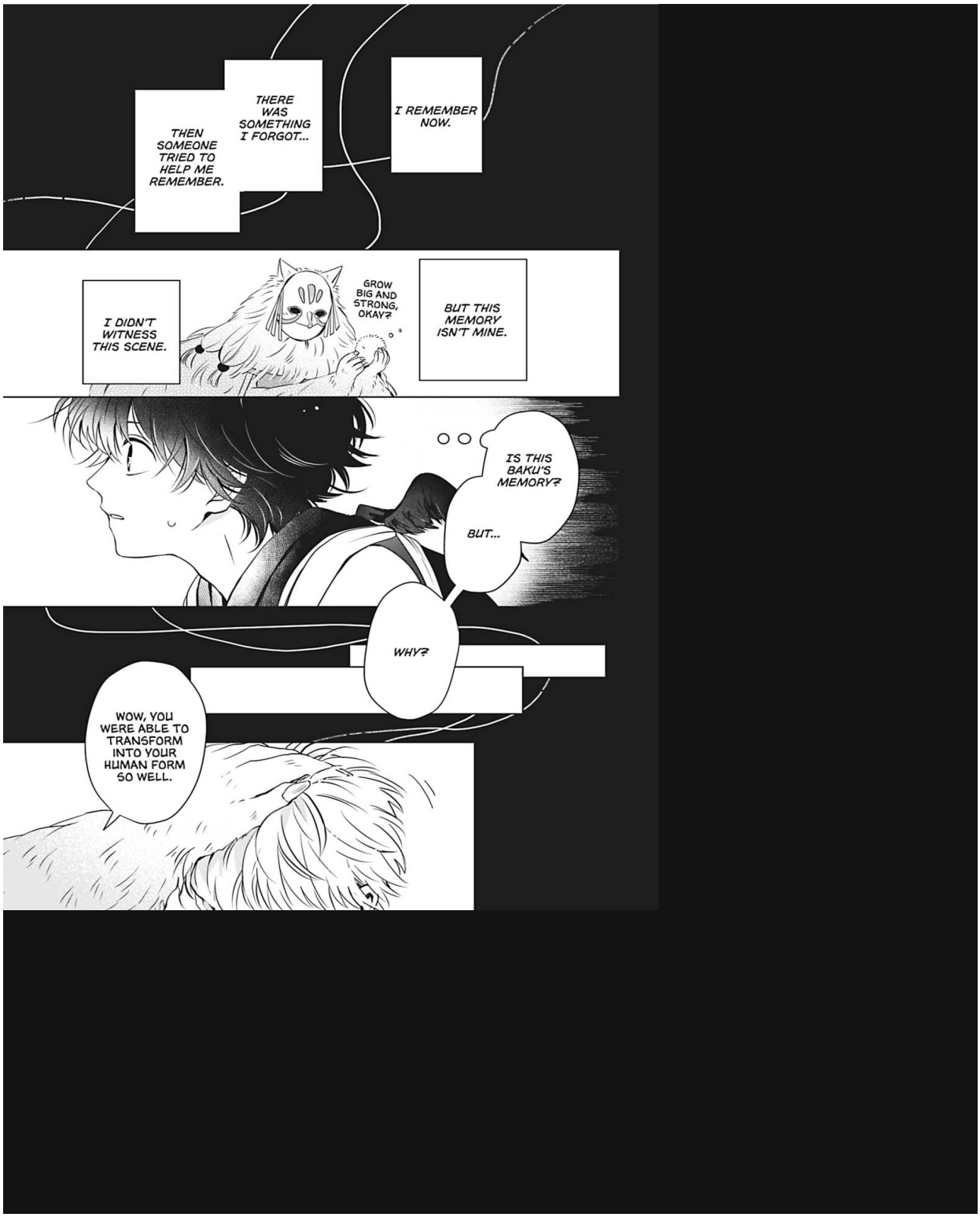
I REMEMBER NOW.
THERE WAS SOMETHING I FORGOT...
THEN SOMEONE TRIED TO HELP ME REMEMBER.
I DIDN'T WITNESS THIS SCENE.
GROW BIG AND STRONG, OKAY?
BUT THIS MEMORY ISN'T MINE.
IS THIS BAKU'S MEMORY?
BUT...
WHY?
WOW, YOU WERE ABLE TO TRANSFORM INTO YOUR HUMAN FORM SO WELL.

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IF HE KEEPS GETTING BIGGER, HE MIGHT BUST OPEN THE CEILING.
HEAVY
IT'S SO NICE TO SEE YOU GROWING.
BUT YOU DON'T EAT ANYTHING.
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE ALL RIGHT?
IS THERE ANYTHING YOU LIKE TO EAT?
NO...
I'M FINE.

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169

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POP
LISTEN...
YOU'RE A LITTLE BALL OF FLUFF!
THAT'S AMAZING!
WOW!
GRAB
WHY DID YOU LOOK SO UNCERTAIN ABOUT THIS?
YOU SHOULD BE MORE CONFIDENT ABOUT IT!
fluff もふ
THERE'S A LOT OF CHAOS AROUND AND IT'S DANGEROUS.
IT'S LOWER DOWN IN THE MOUNTAINS, SO...
YOU SHOULDN'T COME HERE TOO OFTEN.
I DON'T LIKE IT UP THERE.
EVERYONE MAKES FUN OF ME...
...?
YOU SHOULD STAY HIGHER—
I DON'T WANT TO.
170

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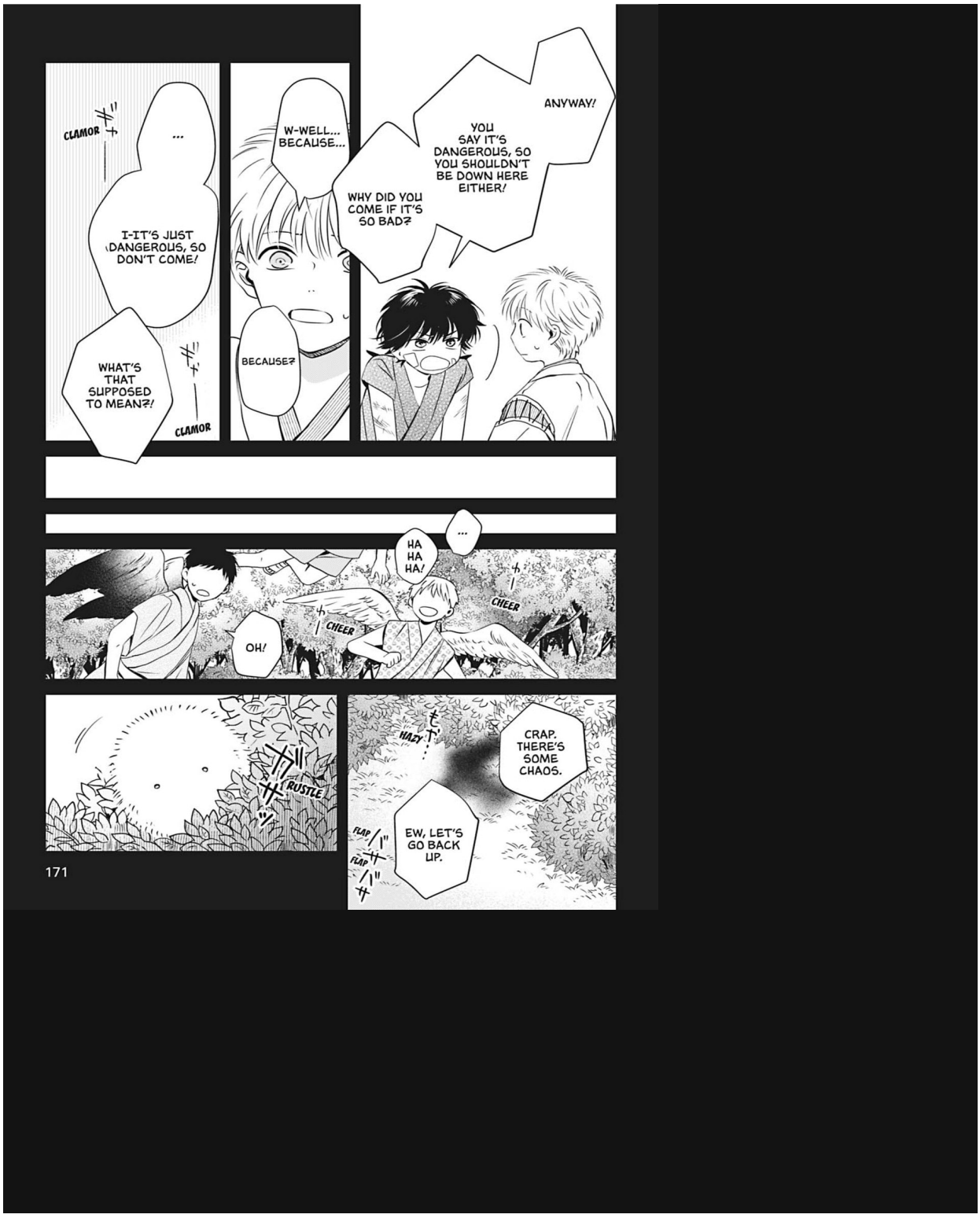

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YOU'RE HERE AGAIN?
THAT'S MY LINE.
IT'S DANGEROUS TO JUMP OUT OF A TREE.
I DIDN'T JUMP OUT. I'M PRACTICING HOW TO FLY!
HE'S HURT EVEN MORE.
OWWW.
AH!
IF ANYONE SAW ME PRACTICING, THEY'D BE REALLY ANNOYING ABOUT IT.
PEOPLE DON'T COME HERE, SO IT'S A PERFECT SPOT.
N-NO, I WASN'T.
I DON'T THINK IT IS...
I THINK IT'S WONDERFUL.
...
WHAT? ARE YOU GOING TO SAY IT'S A WASTE OF TIME TOO?
173

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TO EAT THAT STUFF.
BUT THAT IS ALL I CAN EAT...
AND ALL I WANT TO EAT.
IT DOESN'T AFFECT YOU TO EAT IT?
IT HURTS A LITTLE IF I EAT TOO MUCH...
IT MAKES ME FEEL WEIRD.
BUT I FEEL BETTER AFTER I DIGEST IT.
PLUS, LATELY IT'S BEEN HARD TO BREATHE WHEN I'M NEAR OUR LORD.
HARD TO BREATHE?
I HEARD THAT EVEN OUR GREAT LORD MIGHT FALL IF HE CAME INTO CONTACT WITH CHAOS...
SO IT'S WEIRD TO WANT TO EAT IT.

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I THINK I'M THE SAME KIND OF BAD THING AS THE CHAOS.
MAYBE I'M NOT THE SAME KIND OF GOD AS HE IS.
BUT I CAN'T SAY THAT TO OUR LORD...
OR TO ANYONE.
?!
NOTHING HAPPENS WHEN I TOUCH YOU.
THAT MEANS YOU'RE NOT THE SAME AT ALL.
177
PAT

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THERE ARE LOTS OF DIFFERENT KINDS OF GODS.
OUR LORD HAS THE POWER TO MAKE PLANTS GROW...
SO MAYBE IT'S JUST THAT YOU HAVE THE POWER TO EAT CHAOS.
IF YOU HADN'T EATEN THAT CHAOS EARLIER, I MIGHT HAVE DIED.
...
ANYWAY, TELL ME WHAT YOUR NAME IS. I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO CALL YOU.
RIGHT?
I DON'T HAVE ONE.
I JUST REALIZED!
REALLY?
THEN WHAT SHOULD I CALL YOU?
WHAT-EVER YOU WANT.

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SANZASHI-SENSEI DOES IT FOR OUR LORD...
SO CHAOS ISN'T ATTRACTED TO HIM!
OH...
YOUR FUR IS A MESS. WHAT WERE YOU DOING?
I'VE SEEN NAPPING. THAT BEFORE.
WHEN I BECOME A MESSENGER, I'LL BE ABLE TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR HAIR!
I WANT TO PRACTICE SO LET ME TRY IT!
えへへ TEE-HEE
AND?
...
REALLY
ANXIOUS
BUT YOU CAN'T EAT TOO MUCH OF IT!
YOU HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, OKAY?
PUSHY
PUSHY
PUSHY
I-I'M FINE! EVEN IF CHAOS APPEARS, I CAN EAT IT...

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PRACTICING HIS TECHNIQUES
JUST A LITTLE CUT.
TA-DA!
LOOK.
POP
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FACE?
WHAT?
YOU'RE REALLY GOING TO SAY THAT?
MY LORD, YOU'RE NOT MY PARENT.
I WONDER IF THIS IS HOW IT FEELS TO HAVE A CHILD LEAVE THE NEST.
YOU HAVEN'T COME TO PLAY WITH ME LATELY, SO I'VE BEEN VERY LONELY.
DID YOU TELL HIM THAT YOU LOVE HIM YET?
POP
YOU'RE FRIENDS WITH THE BOY WHO NAMED YOU, RIGHT?
YOU WON'T TELL ME EVEN WHEN I ASK YOU WHAT HE'S LIKE.
SIIIGH
I-IT'S NOT LIKE I DON'T WANT TO TELL YOU...
183

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WHETHER HE'S A FIERCE GOD...
A BEAUTIFUL GODDESS...
OR A BOY DOING HIS BEST WITH HIS TINY WINGS...
I'M CHEERING YOU ON. DO YOUR BEST.
POP
WHA—?
N-NO...
I GUESS YOU'RE SHY.
BUT I'LL BE SAD IF YOU KEEP IT FROM ME, SO LET ME KNOW IF THINGS WORK OUT.
OH...
SLAM
YOU LET ANOTHER GOD LIVE ON ONE OF THE MOUNTAINS AGAIN WITHOUT TELLING ME, DIDN'T YOU?!
MY LORD!
IF I WERE TO—
MY LORD...

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YES, YES. I KNOW.
OH!
COULD YOU PLEASE WORK ON YOUR SENSE OF DANGER AND REMEMBER TO TELL—
YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT KIND OF GOD THEY ARE!
YOU ALWAYS RECKLESSLY LET PEOPLE IN!
YOU SEEM BUSY.
I'LL COME BACK LATER.
BAKU!
たん
SHUT
THE GUARDS TOLD ME THEY OFTEN SEE HIM AT THE FOOT OF THE MOUNTAIN.
SHIN TOO.
I HOPE...
HE'S OKAY.
GOT LEFT BEHIND.
HMM?

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I'VE HEARD REPORTS THAT THEY'VE SEEN WHITE FLUFF BALLS CO-EXISTING WITH CHAOS.
THEY WERE WONDER-ING IF THEY SHOULD GET RID OF THEM ALONG WITH THE CHAOS
MY LORD...
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
IS IT SAFE TO KEEP HIM IN THE MOUNTAINS?
186

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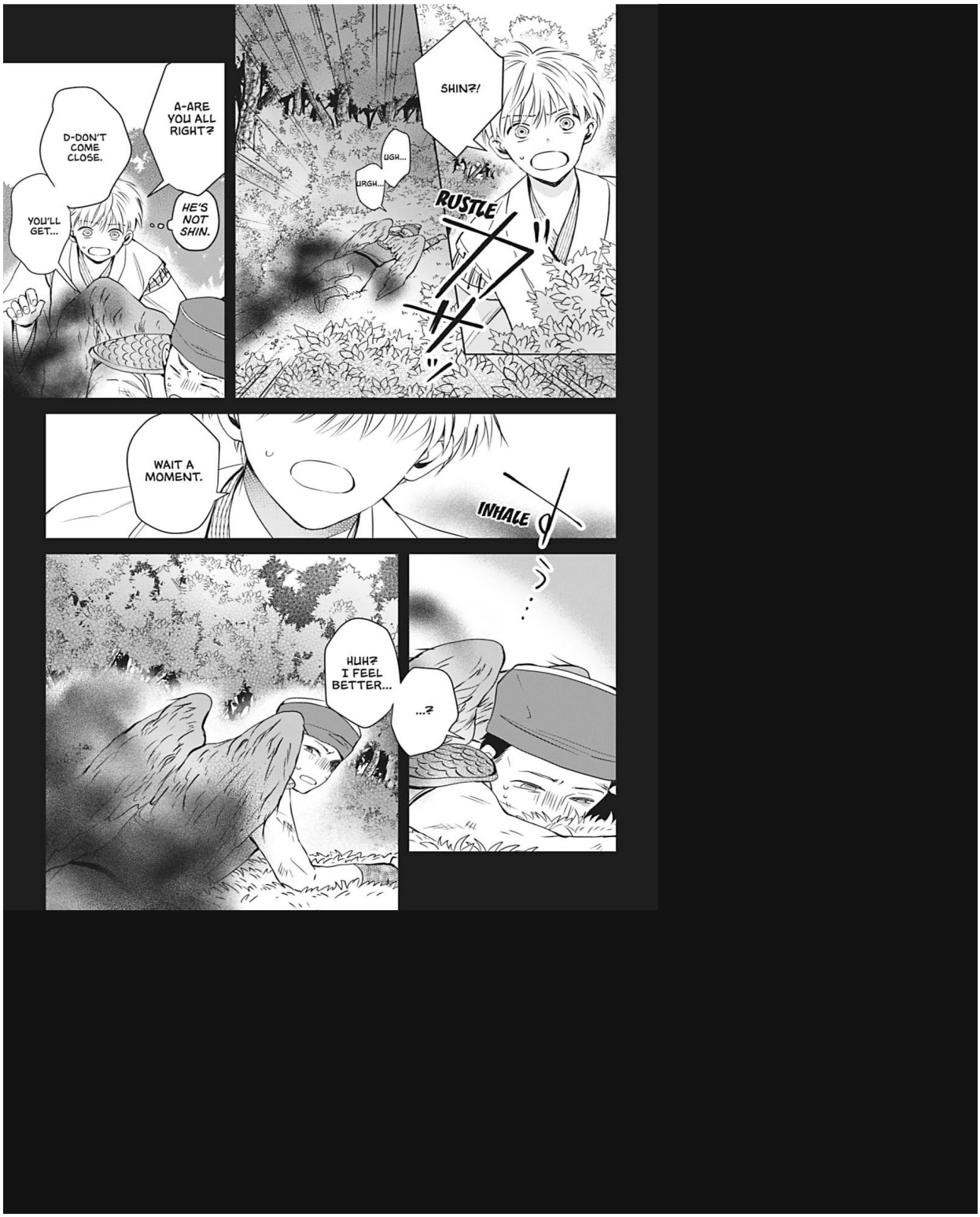

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I KNOW I CAN'T FLY...
WITH THESE WINGS.
EVEN IF I GO WITH YOU, I MIGHT JUST HOLD YOU BACK...
BUT I WANT TO BE BY YOUR SIDE.
I CAN'T FLY, BUT I'LL DO MY BEST AT EVERYTHING ELSE. I'LL PRACTICE CUTTING HAIR SO I CAN GET BETTER...
SO...
SLIDE 8
THANK YOU.

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SHIN...
CLOSE YOUR EYES.
I'M REALLY HAPPY TO HEAR THAT.
SO...
PHEW
WHAT IS IT?
I BELIEVED IN MY HEART THAT SHIN WOULD SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT TO ME.
FOR A BRIEF MOMENT, I CONSIDERED TAKING HIM WITH ME SO WE COULD LIVE TOGETHER.
A GOOD-LUCK CHARM.
BUT...

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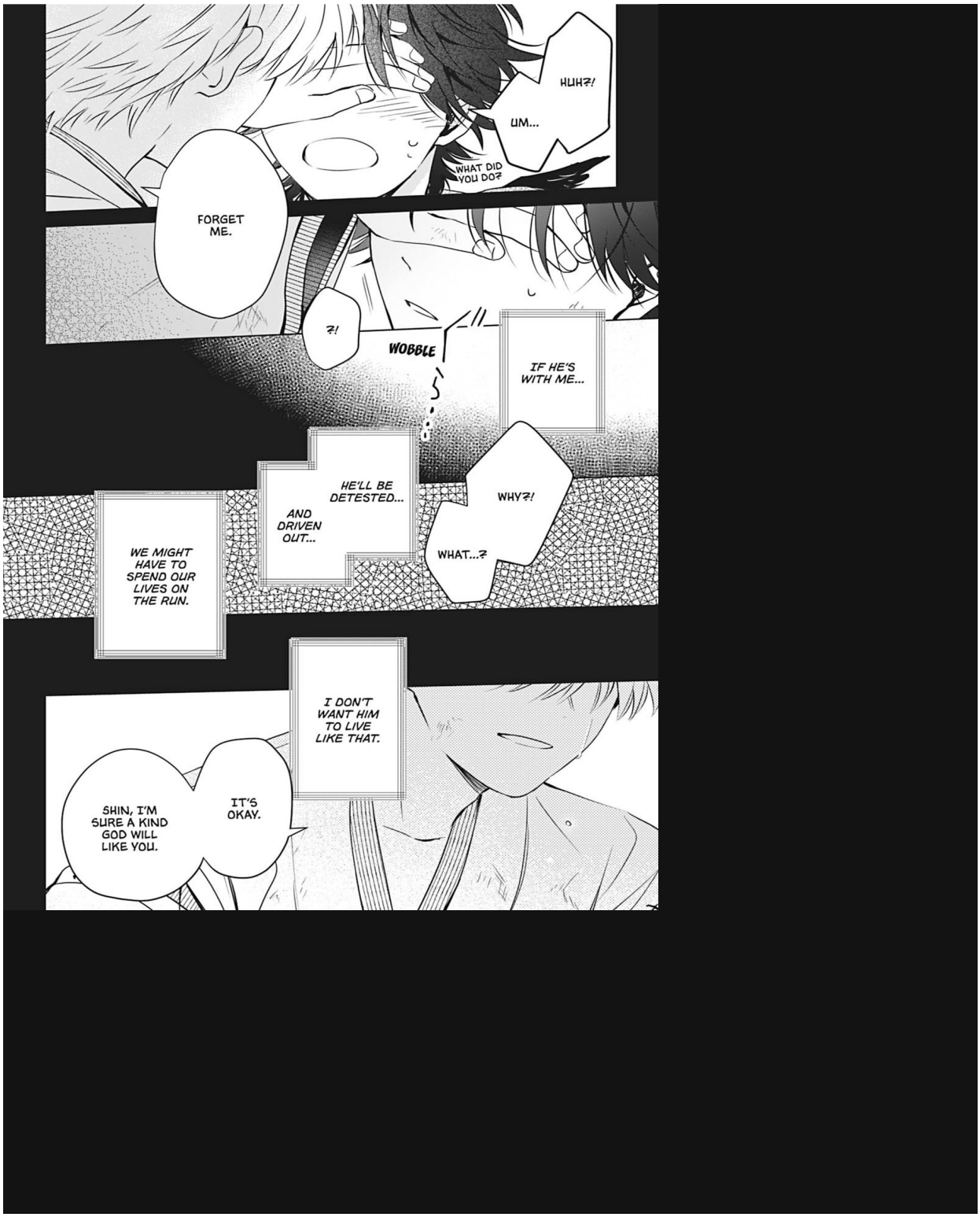

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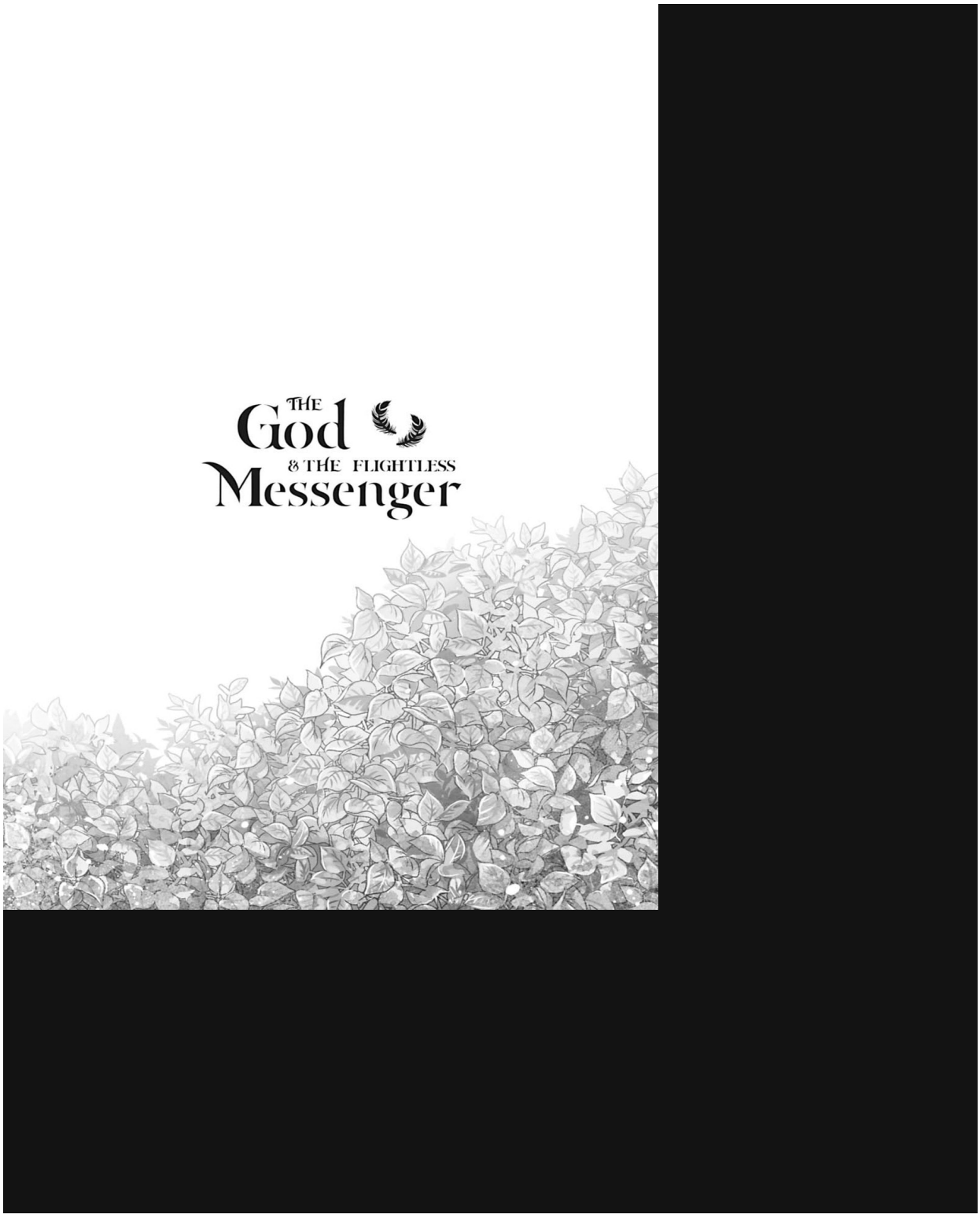

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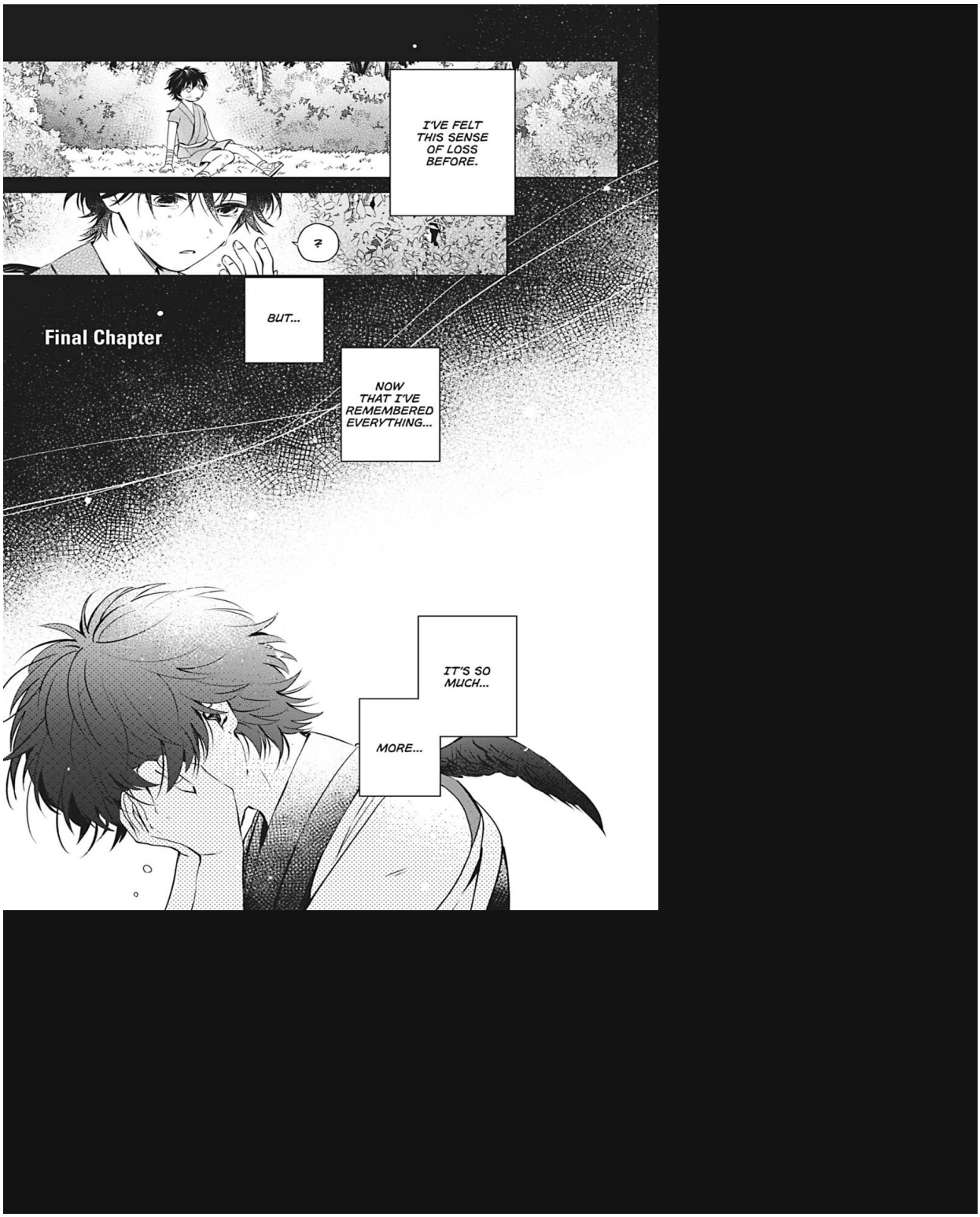

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SANZASHI-SAMA ORDERED EVERYONE TO GET OFF THE MOUNTAINS.
BUSY
BUSY
BUSY
IT'S REALLY LOUD. WHAT'S GOING ON?
YOU WOULDN'T WAKE UP NO MATTER HOW MUCH WE CALLED YOUR NAME. I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.
WHERE'S BAKU?
ALL THE GODS ON THE OTHER MOUNTAINS HAVE TO DESCEND TOO.
IT WAS REALLY SUDDEN...

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!
HEY, SHIN!
SITS UP
I'M SORRY. I FOLLOWED HIM, BUT...
I DON'T KNOW.
HE WENT SOMEWHERE ELSE AFTER YOU COLLAPSED.
WAIT.
GLUB
YOU'RE...
I THOUGHT YOU COULDN'T LEAVE THE SIXTH MOUNTAIN.
HEE HEE
MY BODY IS ON THE MOUNTAIN.
I DON'T HAVE A SMALLER PHYSICAL FORM LIKE THIS LITTLE ONE, SO I'LL DISAPPEAR IF YOU TOUCH ME.
MORE IMPORTANTLY...
SO...

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207

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208

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THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO SAY TO HIM.
THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO SAY...
UM...
WELL, IT'S JUST...
TAKE ME TO HIM.
LET ME SEE HIM.
I WANT TO SEE HIM.
BE CARE-FUL, SHIN.
SO HURRY UP AND GO.
WELL... IT'S WEIRD TO SEE YOU SO CALM...
OKAY.
YATSUDE...
BUT I'LL PROTECT MY GOD ON THE SIXTH MOUNTAIN.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN...
...
OH, THAT'S RIGHT.
WHAT ABOUT YOU TWO?
NO MATTER WHAT, WE CAN'T GO SOMEWHERE THAT DOESN'T HAVE WATER.

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WRITHE
WRITHE
THE PROBLEM IS...
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
I CAN STILL PULL THE CHAOS OUT OF HIM.
AND YET, THIS IS WHAT I'VE BECOME.
ISN'T IT PATHETIC?
STAINED
YOU DON'T HAVE TO FORCE YOURSELF TO SAVE ME.
IT'S OKAY.
I COULDN'T SAVE YOU...
EVEN THOUGH I COULD TELL THAT YOU WERE TROUBLED.
YOU HATE ME, DON'T YOU?
SINCE YOU WERE DRIVEN AWAY FROM THE MOUNTAIN.

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I JUST THOUGHTLESSLY ASSUMED YOU WOULD TELL ME ONE DAY.
MY LORD...
YOU NOTICED...
THAT POWER OF YOURS.
FLINCH
IF YOU EAT TOO MUCH, IT AFFECTS YOU BADLY, DOESN'T IT?
!
I MAY BE ROTTEN, BUT I'M STILL A GOD.
I WON'T FALL OR DIE BECAUSE OF THIS.
I'LL DEAL WITH MY OWN MISTAKES.

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YOU ALSO HAVE SOMEONE PRECIOUS, DON'T YOU?
SOMEONE WHO LOVES YOU BACK.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE ASHAMED OF YOUR OWN POWER.
DON'T CHEAPEN YOURSELF.
LIVE AS YOU WILL.
HEY...

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WHY... ARE YOU...?
WRITHE
YOU MIGHT HAVE THOUGHT THAT YOU'D BE ABLE TO HANDLE IT OVER TIME...
BUT IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU.
YOUR BODY WON'T LAST... AND THE DAMAGE WILL SPREAD THROUGH-OUT THE MOUNTAIN.
WRITHE
WRITHE
YOU SAID YOU'D DO IT YOURSELF.
BUT I CAN TAKE IT INTO MY BODY AND DIGEST IT.
THIS ISN'T SOLELY FOR YOUR SAKE, MY LORD.

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I WAS BORN ON THIS MOUNTAIN...
AND I MET...
SHIN HERE.
EVEN IF I LEAVE AGAIN...
I NEED YOU TO STAY HERE.
I NEED YOU TO PROTECT THIS PLACE LIKE YOU ALWAYS HAVE, SO I CAN MEET HIM HERE AGAIN.

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I'M REALLY...
SUPER MAD.
I HAVE BEEN EVER SINCE I REGAINED MY MEMORIES.
YEAH...
I STILL AM.
I'M REALLY SORRY I ERASED YOUR MEMORIES.
YEAH, THAT TOO!
I'M MAD THAT YOU LEFT ME BEHIND EVEN THOUGH I BEGGED YOU TO BRING ME WITH YOU!
I'M SO FREAKING MAD ABOUT THAT!
I'M MAD THAT YOU KISSED ME BACK THEN TOO!
AND...
WHOOPS.

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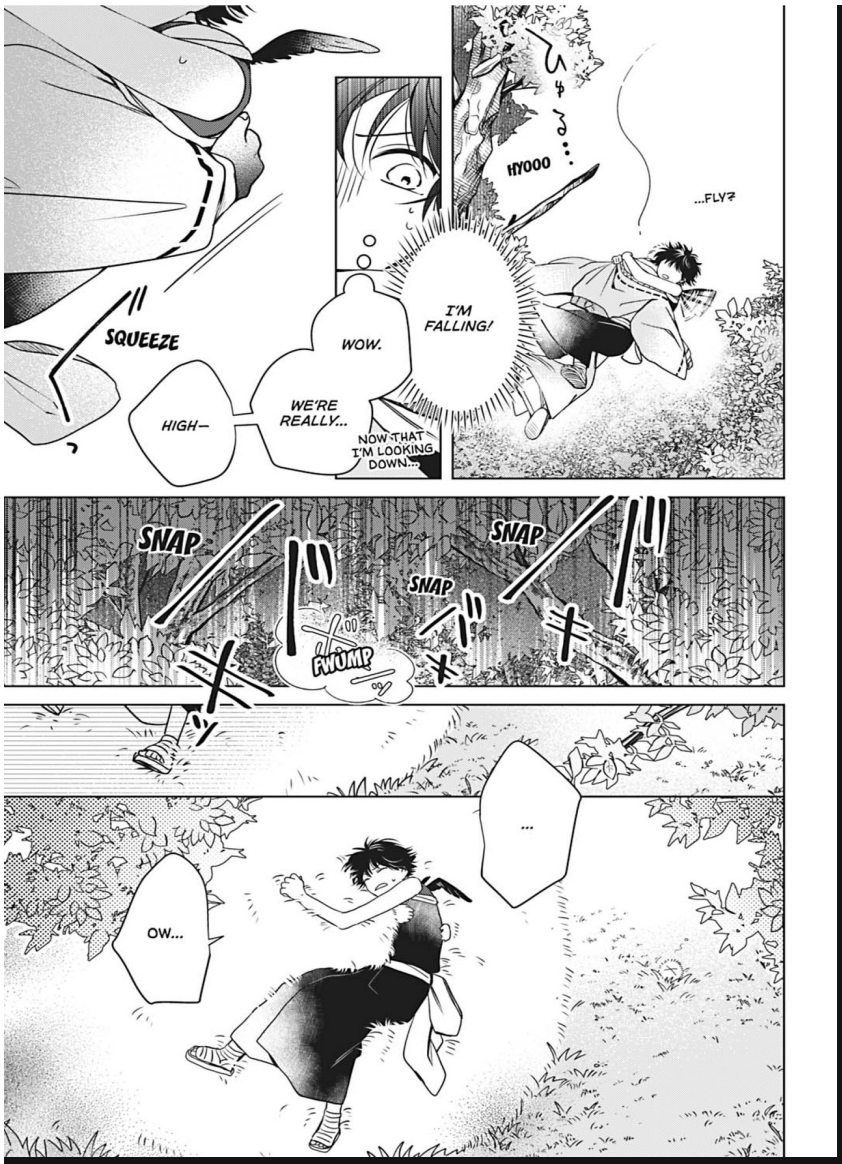

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WRITHE
IS GETTING BLACKER.
FROM YATSUDE'S GOD?
I ATE A LOT...
BEFORE I WENT TO SEE OUR GREAT LORD...
AND OTHERS...
THERE WAS CHAOS SPREADING EVERY-WHERE.
IT LOOKED BAD, SO I ATE IT...
I THOUGHT I COULD KEEP GOING A LITTLE LONGER.
YOU COULDN'T!
WHAT SHOULD WE DO NOW?
SHIN...
I...
APOLOGIZED EARLIER...
BUT THERE'S SOMETHING I STILL HAVEN'T SAID.

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I THOUGHT I'D GET CAUGHT IF I WENT DEEP INTO THE MOUNTAINS...
SO I SENT A PART OF ME AHEAD.
YOU MIGHT GET MAD AT ME AGAIN...
WE CAN TALK ABOUT THIS LATER.
I...
AFTER I ERASED YOUR MEMO-RIES AND LEFT...
I WOULD COME CLOSE BY SOME-TIMES.
!
IT WAS A COINCIDENCE THAT I NOTICED THE MOUNTAIN LOOKING STRANGE...
BUT I DECIDED TO STAY ON THE THIRTY-SECOND MOUNTAIN ANYWAY, EVEN IF THE GREAT LORD AND THE OTHERS NOTICED.
BAKU, IT'S FINE.
BAKU?
BAKU!
I WAS THE ONE WHO LEFT YOU BEHIND...
BUT I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
I WANTED TO SEE YOU, EVEN FOR A LITTLE WHILE.
I THOUGHT I'D BE OKAY WITH YOU BEING AT SOMEONE ELSE'S SIDE...
BUT I ENDED UP HATING THE IDEA...

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236

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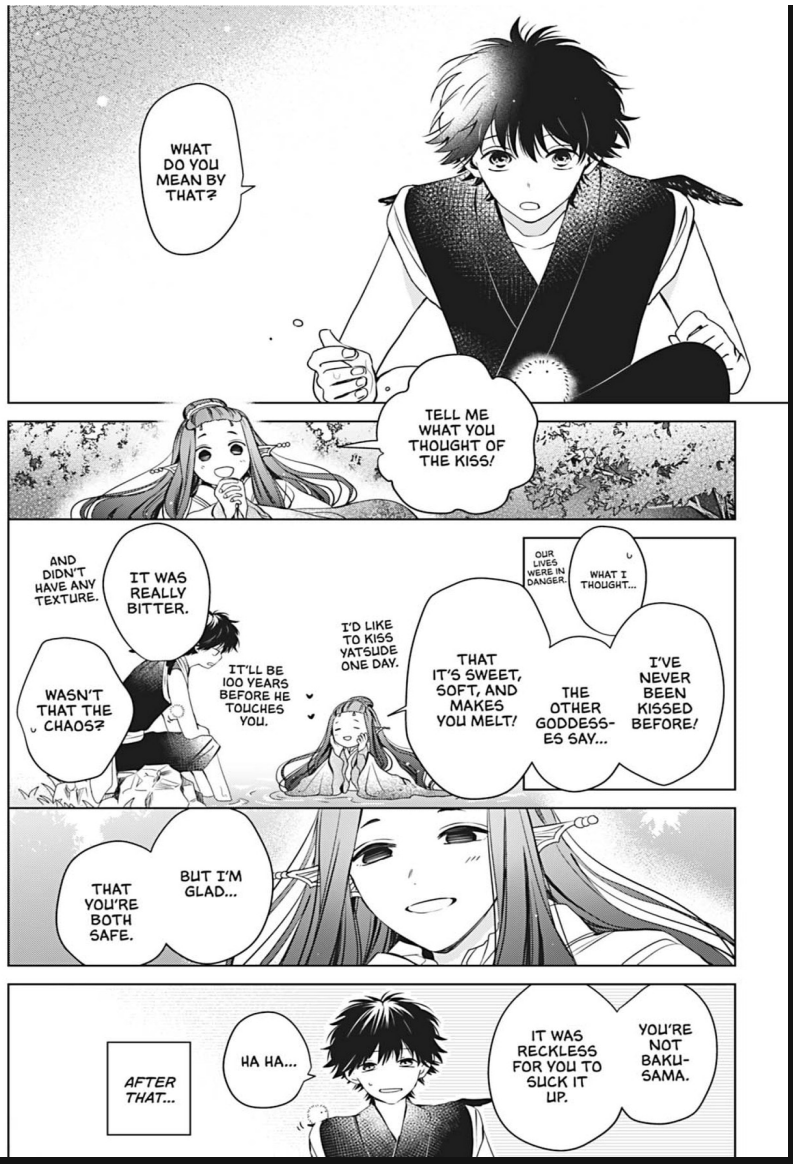
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
TELL ME WHAT YOU THOUGHT OF THE KISS!
AND DIDN'T HAVE ANY TEXTURE.
IT WAS REALLY BITTER.
WASN'T THAT THE CHAOS?
IT'LL BE 100 YEARS BEFORE HE TOUCHES YOU.
I'D LIKE TO KISS YATSUDE ONE DAY.
THAT IT'S SWEET, SOFT, AND MAKES YOU MELT!
THE OTHER GODDESSES SAY...
OUR LIVES WERE IN DANGER.
WHAT I THOUGHT...
I'VE NEVER BEEN KISSED BEFORE!
THAT YOU'RE BOTH SAFE.
BUT I'M GLAD...
AFTER THAT...
HA HA...
IT WAS RECKLESS FOR YOU TO SUCK IT UP.
YOU'RE NOT BAKU-SAMA.

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AND THEN I ATE THE CHAOS THAT YOU SUCKED UP.
I MADE SOME SPACE...
LIKE THIS.
AFTER THAT, I JUST WAITED TO FINISH DIGESTING.
IT WAS PRETTY ROUGH, THOUGH.
HUH...
ALL OF THE CHAOS I COULDN'T DIGEST WENT TO THIS GUY.
WELL, BAKU MANAGED TO SAVE ME SOMEHOW.
WELL, I DID GET THAT IDEA BECAUSE OF YOUR RECKLESSNESS, SO...
ALL RIGHT. JUST STAY QUIET AND REST.
I WAS PLANNING ON
LANDING IN THIS FORM.
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO JUMPED OUT.
I'M NOT RECKLESS!
THOUGH-TLESS, THEN.
IT WASN'T THAT, EITHER!
NO, YOU REALLY WEREN'T THINKING OF WHAT COULD HAPPEN.
YOU TRIED TO FLY, TOO?
I ATE ALL OF IT...
BUT IT DID ENTER YOUR BODY, SO YOU'LL NEED SOME TIME TO RECOVER.
YEAH...

241

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MAYBE IT'S BETTER TO HAVE HIM STAY HERE IN CASE WE NEED HIM.
ROLL
WAS THAT THE RIGHT THING TO DO?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
THEN I'D BE HAPPY TO LET HIM. HE'D BE A BIG HELP.
IF HE WANTS TO STAY HERE...
HMM...
IF SOMETHING LIKE THIS HAPPENS AGAIN...
CLATTER
DO YOU, SANZASHI?
WELL... THAT MIGHT BE RIGHT.
I TOLD HIM TO LIVE HIS LIFE FREELY.
BUT IT MIGHT BE A LITTLE SELFISH FOR US TO ASK FOR THAT, SINCE WE ALREADY DROVE HIM AWAY ONCE.
YOU JUST DON'T WANT HIM TO LEAVE...
ANYWAY...

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HE ACTS LIKE NOTHING'S HAPPENED.
BUT THEN HE GETS MAD AGAIN!
IT'S SO FUNNY.
YOU CAN'T KEEP MAKING HIM MAD LIKE THA–
HEY.
PUNCH
AH...
WHAT?!
I CAN HEAR YOU!
BUT HE'S A NICE GUY!
TAKE CARE OF HIM, MY LORD!
SO I STEPPED OUT.
I WANTED TO SEE IF THERE WAS ANY CHAOS LEFT...
SEE? HE GETS MAD SO EASILY.
WHISPER
WHISPER
AH...
S-SORRY. YOU WERE FAST ASLEEP.
YOU SAID YOU WOULDN'T GO ANYWHERE!
YEAH.
THE GOD IS GETTING YELLED AT BY HIS MESSENGER...

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WHAT ARE YOU LAUGHING ABOUT?
CHUCKLE
クスクス…
I LEARNED A LOT!
THEY SAID THEY'D TELL ME ABOUT ALL YOUR GOOD POINTS...
WHAT'S WITH THEM?
MY GOOD POINTS?
IT'S NOTH-ING...
コホン
COUGH
THOSE KIDS SAID THAT YOU GET OVER IT QUICKLY WHEN YOU'RE MAD...
IT REMINDED ME OF WHEN WE WERE KIDS, YOU WERE ALWAYS GRUMBLING AFTER WE HAD A FIGHT, EVEN INTO THE NEXT DAY.
I FELT NOSTALGIC.
I MEAN, I DID...
...
I'M STILL MAD. I DON'T CARE IF IT'S NOT MY PLACE AND YOU'RE MY GOD.
THEN YOU REMEMBER HOW STUBBORN I AM. DON'T THINK I'VE ALREADY FORGOTTEN WHAT YOU DID!
OKAY...
I'M SORRY...
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.

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!
SHIN...
I'M–
I WAS REALLY SCARED THAT YOU'D GONE AHEAD AND LEFT ME AGAIN...
WHEN I WASN'T LOOKING.
BAKU...
YOU DON'T PLAN ON STAYING HERE, DO YOU?
OUR LORD TOLD ME.
HE SAID YOU WERE THINKING OF RUNNING OFF AND LOITERING AROUND SOME-PLACE ELSE AGAIN.
GREAT LORD...
LOITERING AROUND...
THERE ARE A LOT OF GODS HERE.
IF SOME WEIRD FIGHT WERE TO BREAK OUT...
OR IF SOMETHING LIKE THIS HAPPENED AGAIN, I'D JUST BE A BOTHER.
SO I THOUGHT I MIGHT AS WELL LEAVE.
AS LONG AS OUR LORD IS HEALTHY, THERE WON'T BE MUCH CHAOS AROUND EITHER.

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249

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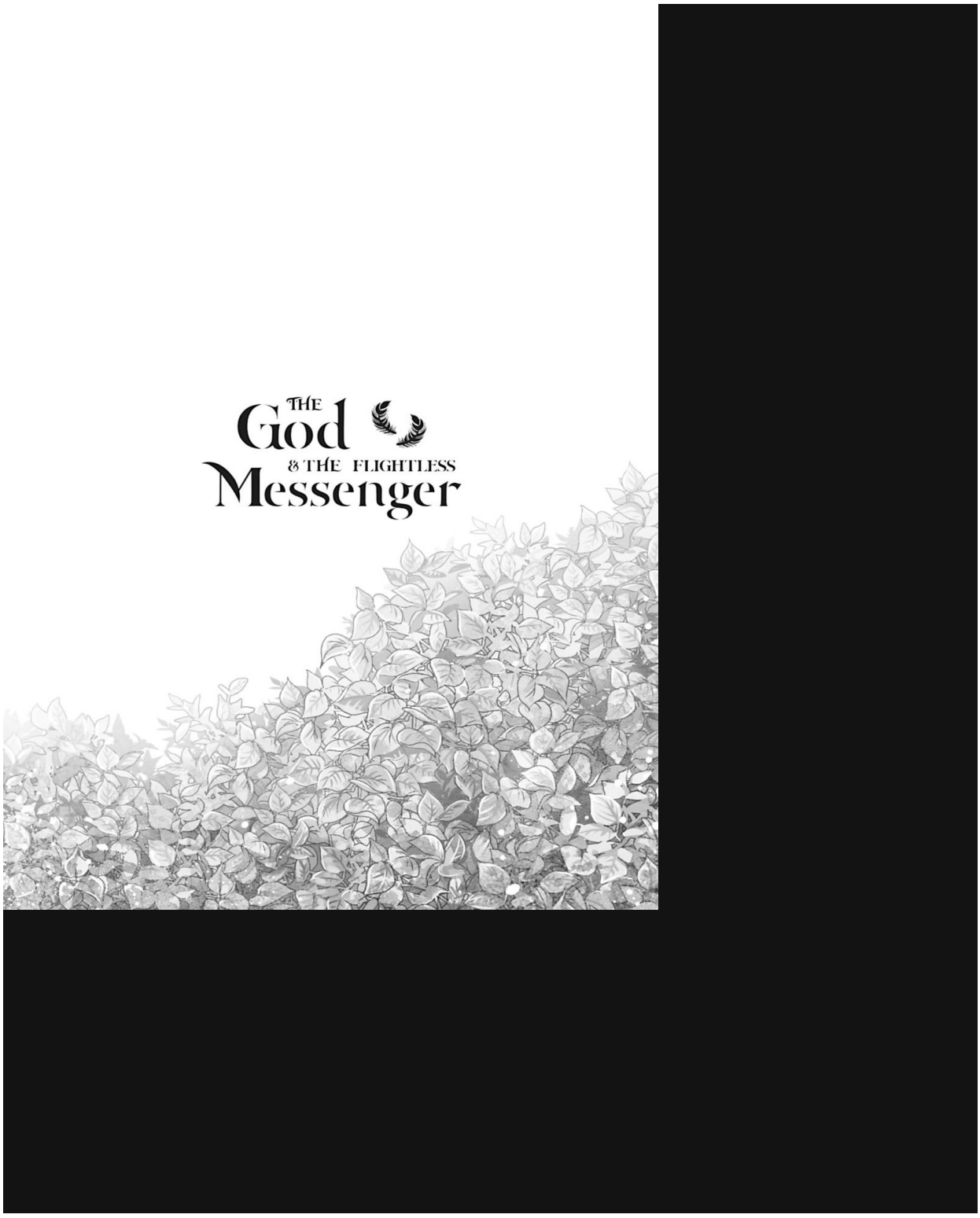

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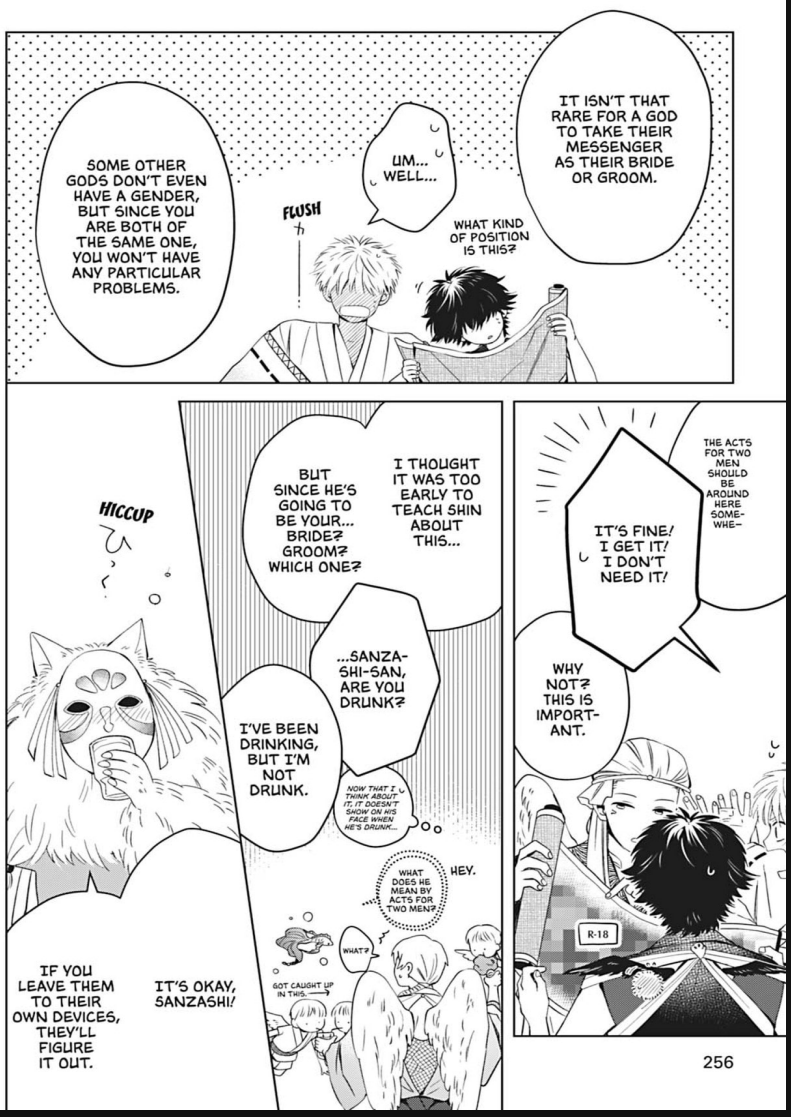
SOME OTHER GODS DON'T EVEN HAVE A GENDER, BUT SINCE YOU ARE BOTH OF THE SAME ONE, YOU WON'T HAVE ANY PARTICULAR PROBLEMS.
UM... WELL...
FLUSH
WHAT KIND OF POSITION IS THIS?
IT ISN'T THAT RARE FOR A GOD TO TAKE THEIR MESSENGER AS THEIR BRIDE OR GROOM.
HICCUP
IF YOU LEAVE THEM TO THEIR OWN DEVICES, THEY'LL FIGURE IT OUT.
IT'S OKAY, SANZASHI!
BUT SINCE HE'S GOING TO BE YOUR... BRIDE? GROOM? WHICH ONE?
I THOUGHT IT WAS TOO EARLY TO TEACH SHIN ABOUT THIS...
...SANZA-SHI-SAN, ARE YOU DRUNK?
I'VE BEEN DRINKING, BUT I'M NOT DRUNK.
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, IT DOESN'T SHOW ON HIS FACE WHEN HE'S DRUNK...
HEY.
WHAT DOES HE MEAN BY ACTS FOR TWO MEN?
WHAT?
GOT CAUGHT UP IN THIS.
IT'S FINE! I GET IT! I DON'T NEED IT!
THE ACTS FOR TWO MEN SHOULD BE AROUND HERE SOME-WHE-
WHY NOT? THIS IS IMPORT-ANT.
R-18
256

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I MAY NOT KNOW ALL THAT MUCH...
JUST... A VAGUE IDEA...
BUT... I DON'T LIKE THE IDEA OF YOU DOING SOMETHING LIKE THIS WITH SOMEONE ELSE JUST BECAUSE I DON'T KNOW HOW TO.
HUH...?
OUR LORD SAID EARLIER THAT...
YOU YOU'RE NOT INNOCENT...
!
...
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT WHAT YOU DID AFTER YOU LEFT LAST TIME...
NO... I HAVEN'T DONE IT.
I'M NOT THINKING ABOUT DOING IT...
WITH ANYONE ELSE EITHER.
THERE'S NO WAY I WOULD.

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YOU'RE THE ONE I'VE ALWAYS LOVED.
I DON'T WANT TO DO ANY OF THOSE THINGS WITH ANYONE BESIDES YOU.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT.
SLIDE
SO...
UM...
UH...
AH...
NO! I WANT TO STUDY SO I CAN DO MY BEST!
SO YOU CAN JUST PUT IT ASIDE...
CLENCH
NO, UM...
I'M HAPPY, BUT...
THOSE PRETENDING TO BE ASLEEP
A LITTLE DEPRESSED BECAUSE HE FEELS LIKE A PARENT WATCHING HIS CHILD LEAVE TO BE MARRIED.
WANTS BAKU TO DO HIS BEST.
CHUCKLE
CHUCKLE
WANTS SHIN TO TEACH HER EVERYTHING HE LEARNS IN HIS STUDIES FOR FUTURE REFERENCE.
WHAT?

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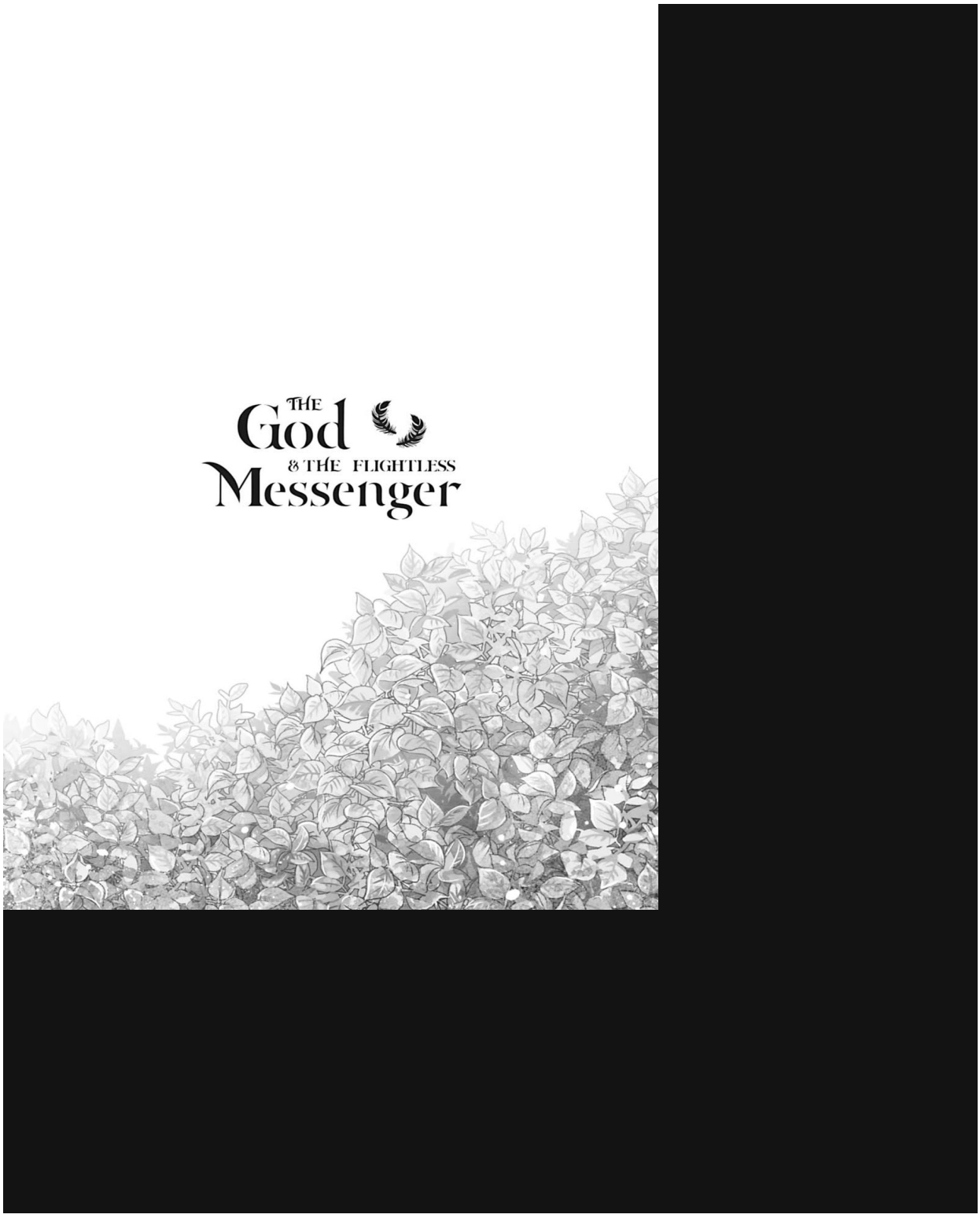

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URGH...
DID IT HURT?
HONESTLY...
I TOLD YOU THAT YOU DON'T HAVE TO CATCH ME.
HERE I GO!
I'M SUPPOSED TO BE THE ONE SERVING HIM...
UGH...
FWUMP
SQUISH
ALSO, HOW TO FALL SAFELY.
I HAVE TO KEEP PRACTICING MY LANDING...
ME TOO...
SO THEN I WON'T CRUSH YOU ANYMORE!
I'LL DO MY BEST TO LEARN HOW TO FLY...
LAST TIME, YOU CAUGHT ME IN HUMAN FORM AND ENDED UP BLEEDING.
I WILL TOO.
POP
?
YEAH.
I'LL DO MY BEST.
AT WHAT?
GOT BIG ENOUGH SO THAT HE WOULDN'T BE CRUSHED ANYMORE.

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SOME USELESS INFORMATION
MOUNTAIN
THE GODS MOVE IN AND OUT. IT'S LIKE AN APARTMENT BUILDING.
THE GREAT LORD
HE WAS ALONE ON THE MOUNTAIN AT FIRST. HE LIKES LIQUOR, DELICIOUS FOOD, AND LIVELY CONVERSATION. ANYTHING LIVELY, REALLY. HE HAS A HUMAN FORM, BUT HE'S KIND OF EMBARRASSED BY IT, SO HE DOESN'T NORMALLY TRANSFORM.
YATSUDE ≠ THE GOD OF THE SIXTH MOUNTAIN (SUIJIN-SAMA)
BEFORE COMING TO THE MOUNTAIN, SHE LIVED IN A SMALL LAKE. HOWEVER, IT WAS FILLED IN AND SHE ALMOST DISAPPEARED UNTIL YATSUDE SAVED HER. (I WANTED TO ADD THIS IN THE STORY BUT COULDN'T). SUIJIN-SAMA CAN READ MINDS, BUT SHE TRIES NOT TO DO IT UNLESS SHE HAS TO. YATSUDE IS STRAIGHT-LACED, SO IT WILL PROBABLY TAKE MUCH LONGER THAN SHIN AND BAKU'S RELATIONSHIP FOR THEIRS TO MATURE.
SANZASHI
THE TEACHER, BOSS, AND MANAGER OF THE MESSENGERS. THERE ARE MANY MESSENGERS WHO TAKE CARE OF THE GREAT LORD, BUT SANZASHI IS THE ONE WHO IS FORMALLY RECOGNIZED AS HIS MESSENGER. I DID MY BEST TO MAKE HIM NOT SEEM LIKE THE VILLAIN, BUT BECAUSE OF HIS POSITION, HE ENDED UP DOING A LOT OF THE DIRTY WORK. A HARD WORKER.
THE TRIPLETS
THEY WERE THE EASIEST TO DRAW. THEY'RE ESSENTIAL FOR KEEPING THINGS LIVELY. FROM THE LEFT, THEIR NAMES ARE FUJI, SHINO, AND NAGI. I DIDN'T GIVE THEM NAMES BEFORE SO I JUST DECIDED ON THEM NOW.

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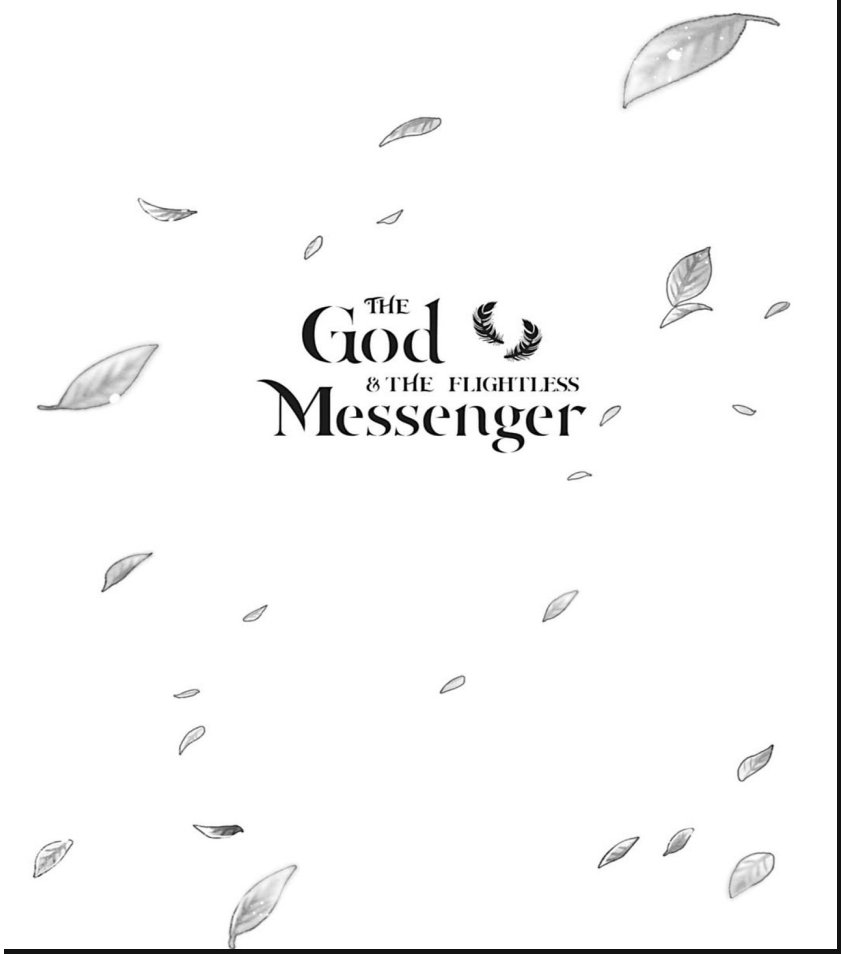

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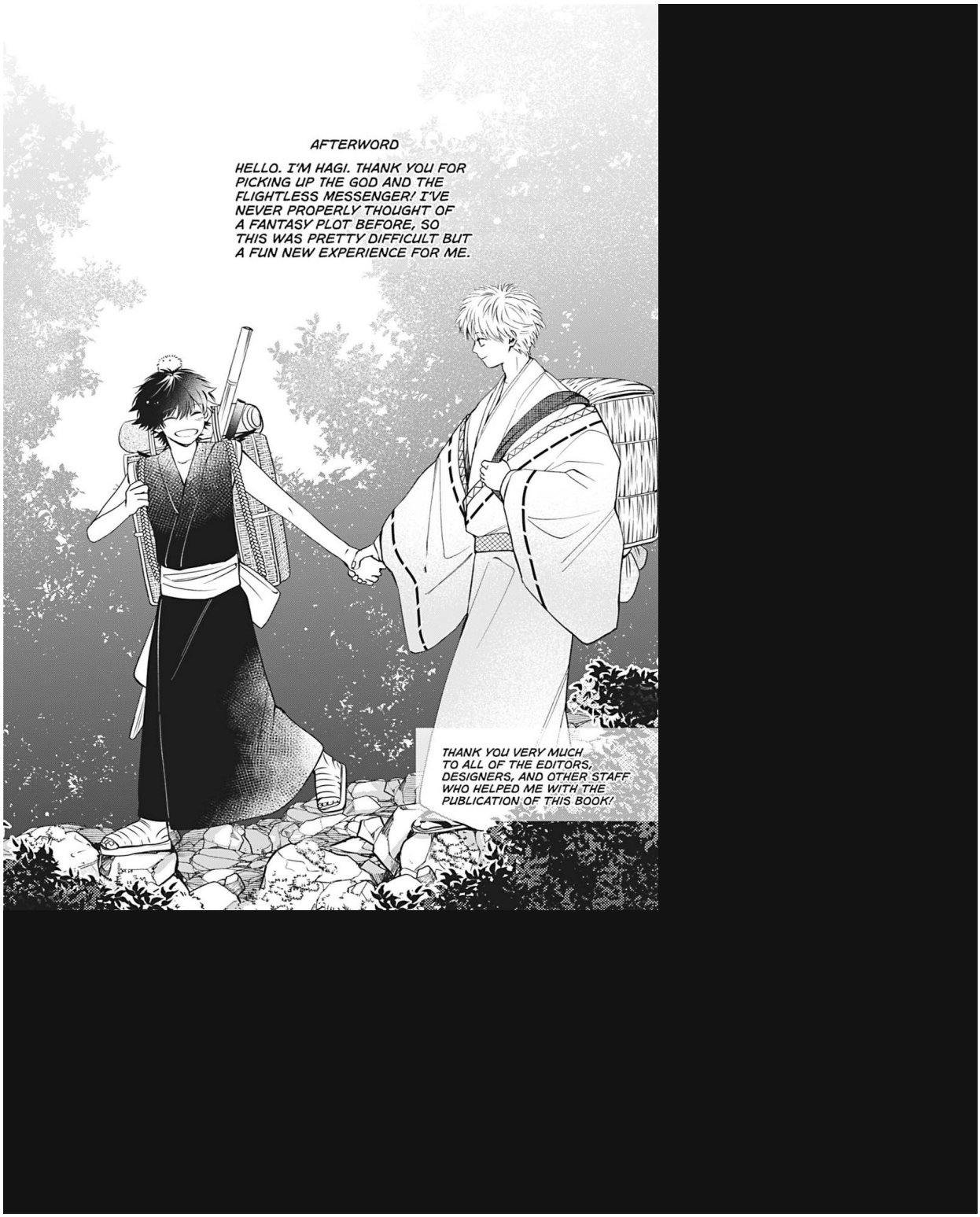
AFTERWORD
HELLO. I'M HAGI. THANK YOU FOR PICKING UP THE GOD AND THE FLIGHTLESS MESSENGER! I'VE NEVER PROPERLY THOUGHT OF A FANTASY PLOT BEFORE, SO THIS WAS PRETTY DIFFICULT BUT A FUN NEW EXPERIENCE FOR ME.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH TO ALL OF THE EDITORS, DESIGNERS, AND OTHER STAFF WHO HELPED ME WITH THE PUBLICATION OF THIS BOOK!

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End

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HANGER
FROM POLICE OFFICER TO SPECIAL INVESTIGATOR —
Hajime's sudden transfer comes with an unexpected twist: a super-powered convict as his partner!
HANGER
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Hirotaka Kisaragi
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TOKYOPOP

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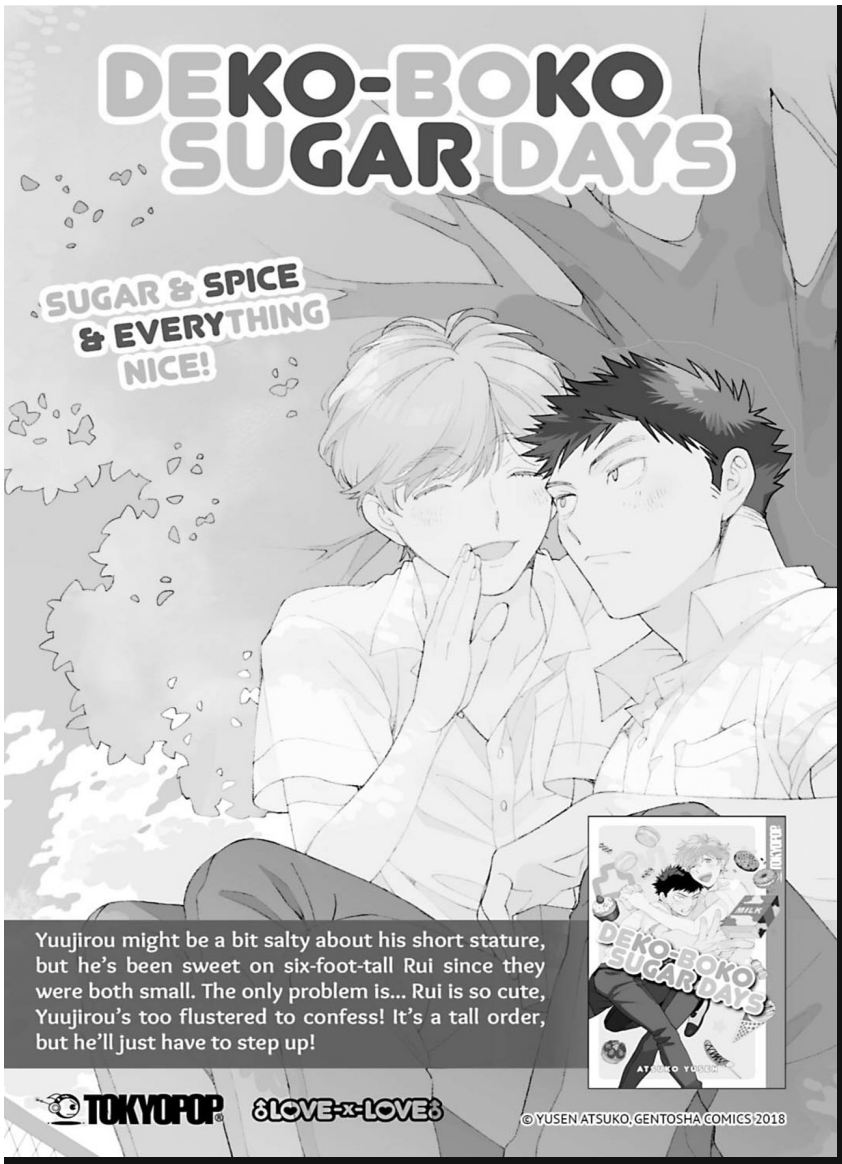
DEKO-BOKO SUGAR DAYS
SUGAR & SPICE & EVERYTHING NICE!
Yuujirou might be a bit salty about his short stature, but he's been sweet on six-foot-tall Rui since they were both small. The only problem is... Rui is so cute, Yuujirou's too flustered to confess! It's a tall order, but he'll just have to step up!
TOKYOPOP
LOVE-x-LOVE
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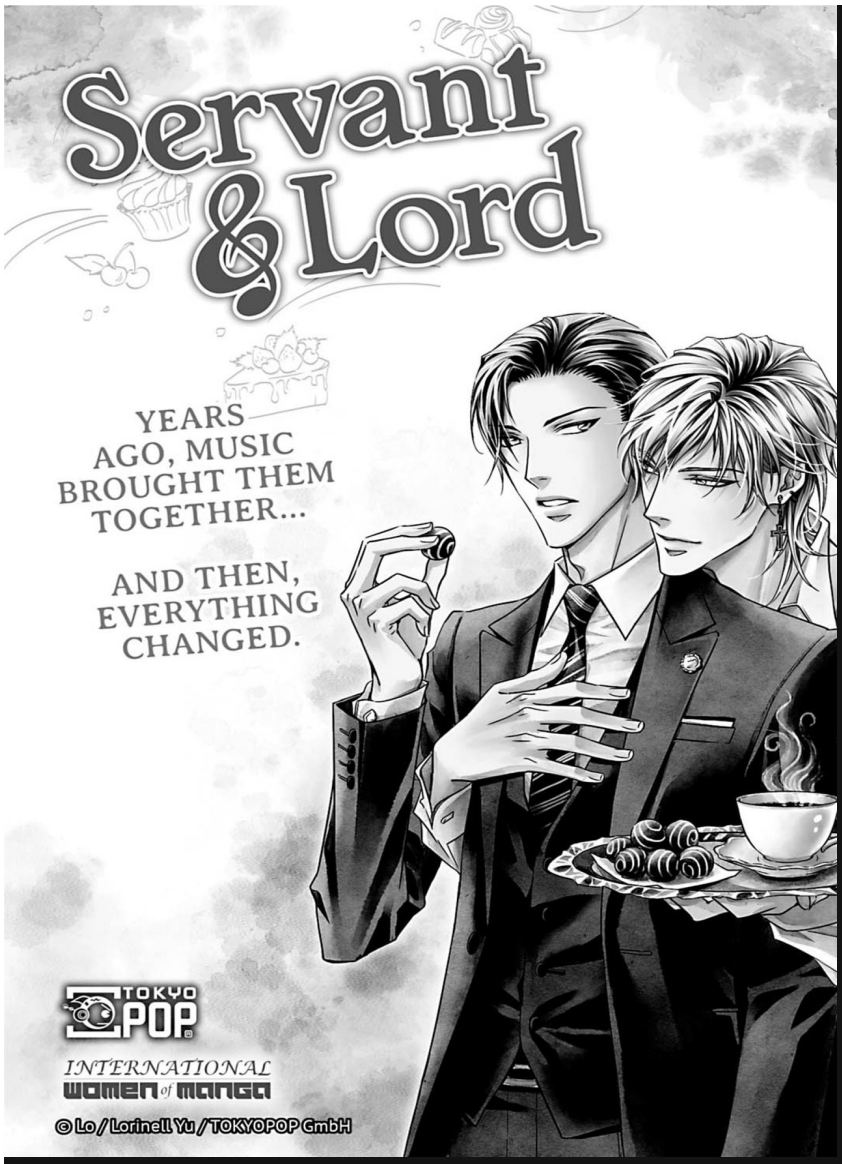

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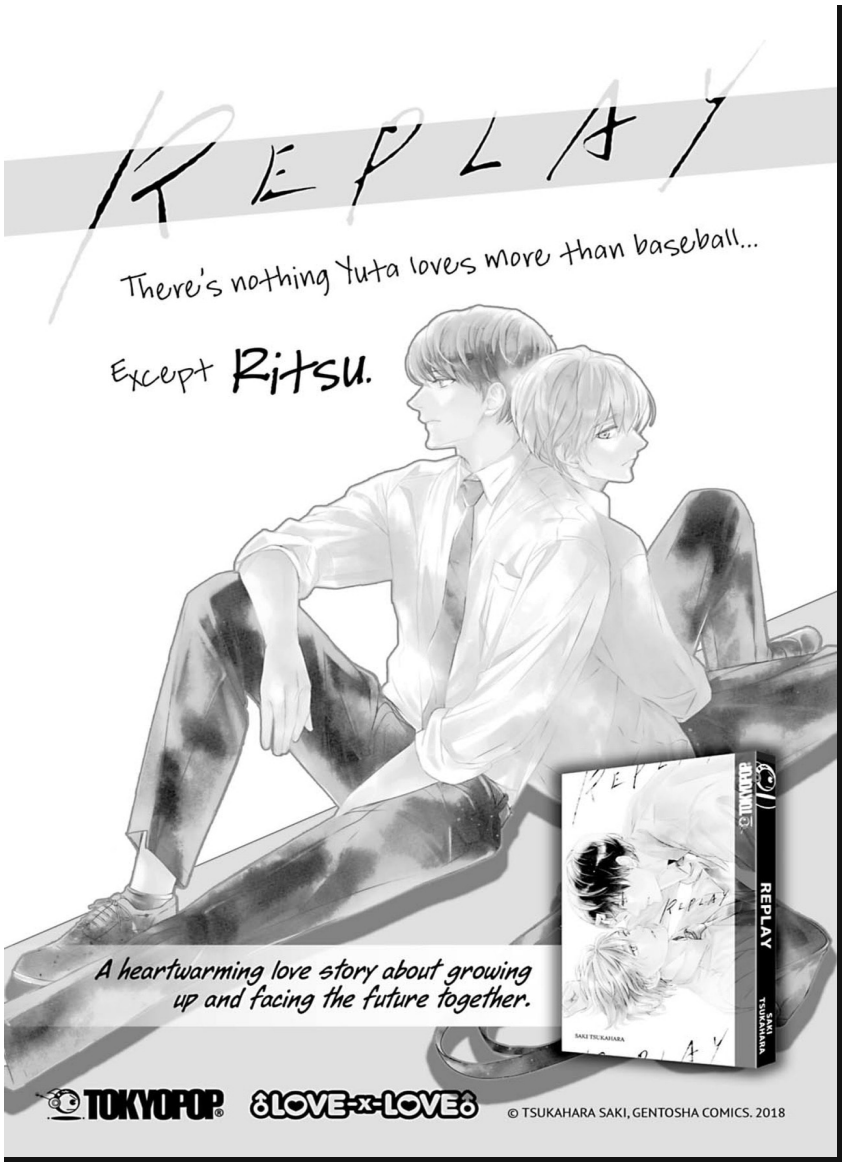

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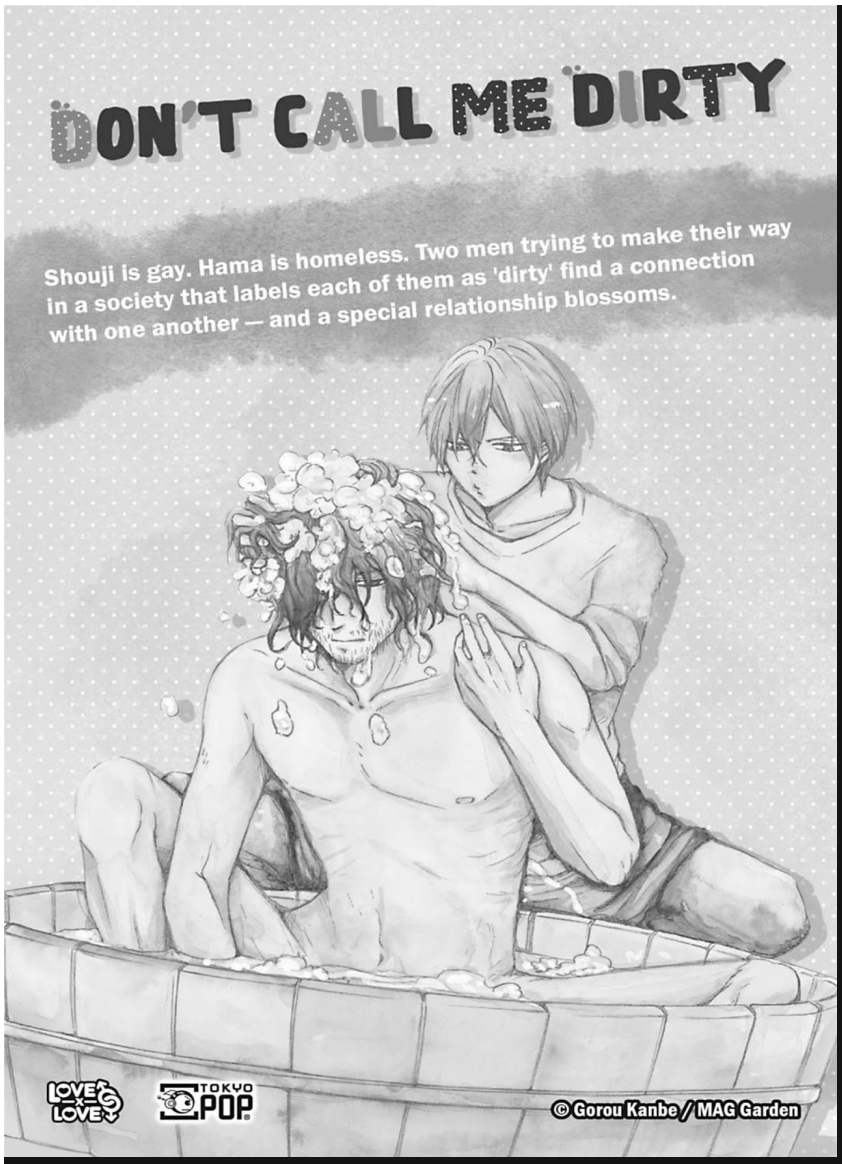
DON'T CALL ME DIRTY
Shouji is gay. Hama is homeless. Two men trying to make their way in a society that labels each of them as 'dirty' find a connection with one another — and a special relationship blossoms.
LOVE to LOVE
TOKYOPOP
© Gorou Kanbe / MAG Garden

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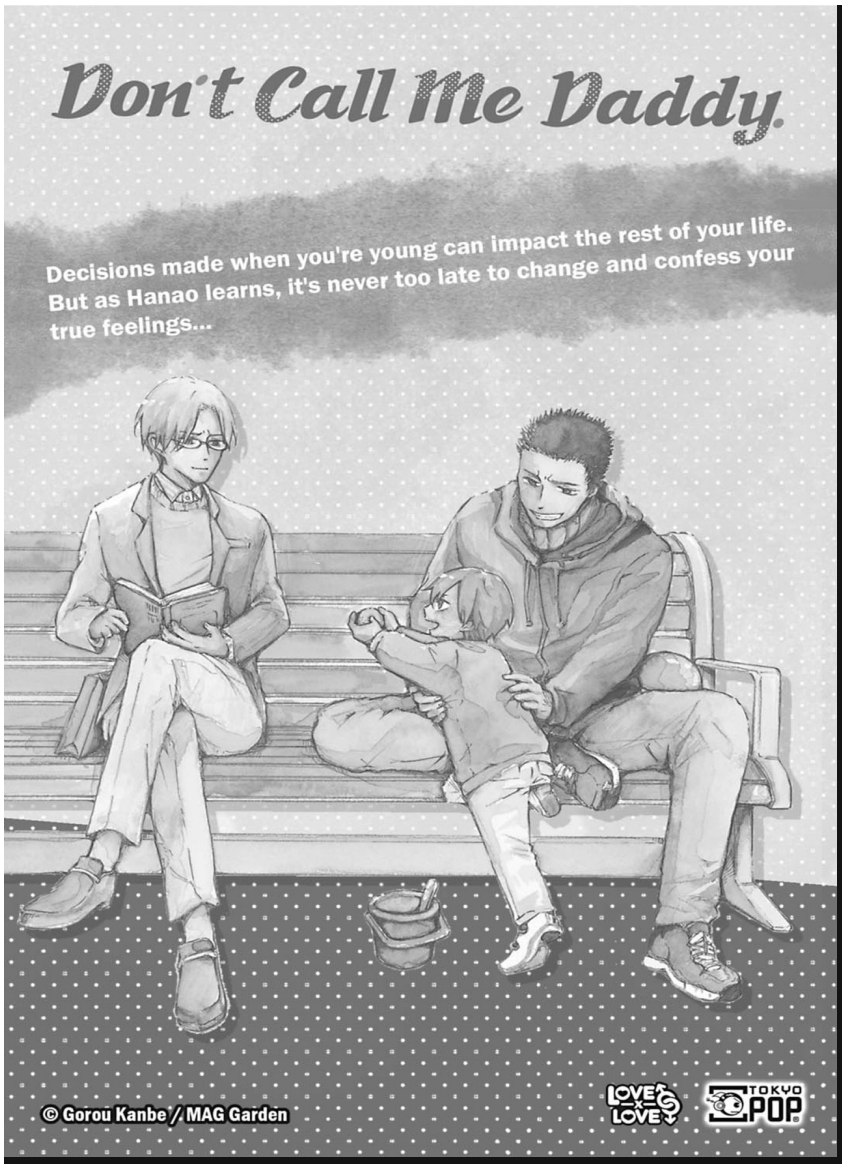
Don't Call Me Daddy
Decisions made when you're young can impact the rest of your life. But as Hanao learns, it's never too late to change and confess your true feelings...
© Gorou Kanbe / MAG Garden
LOVE LOVE
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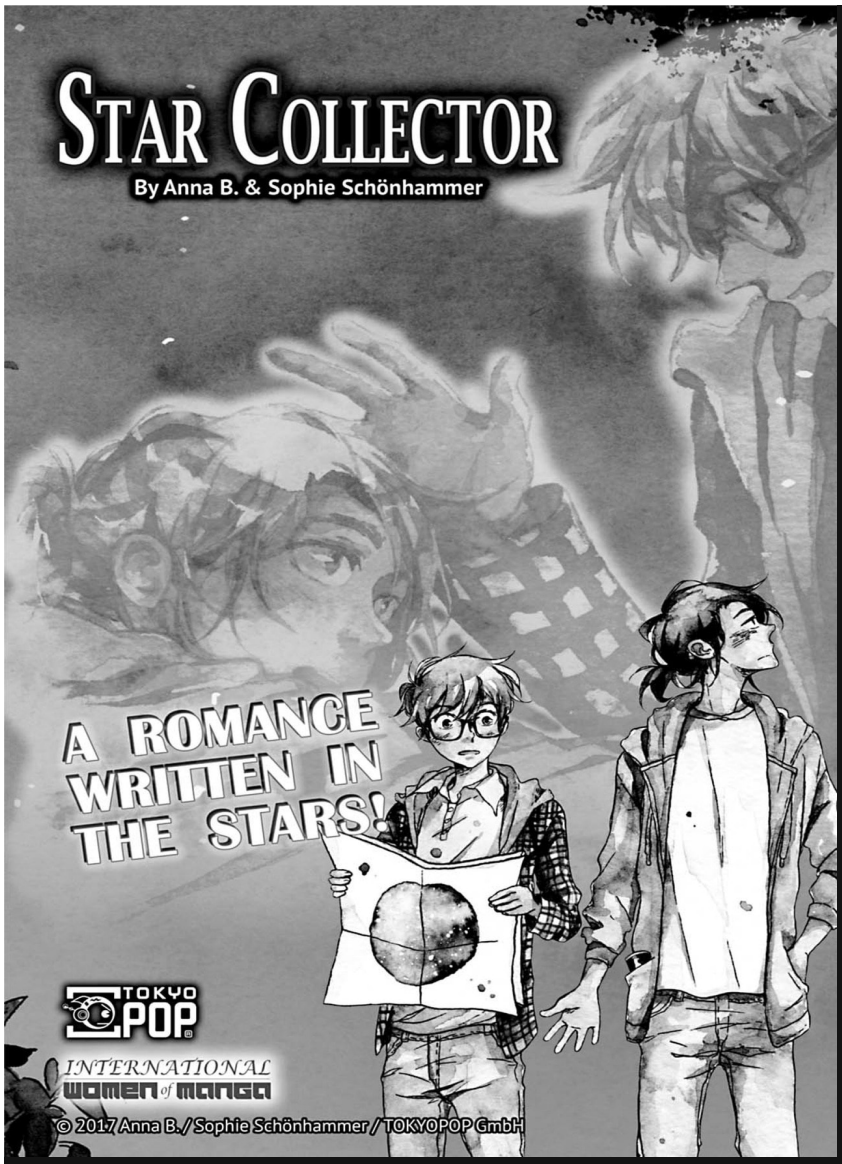
STAR COLLECTOR
By Anna B. & Sophie Schönhammer
A ROMANCE WRITTEN IN THE STARS!
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INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN of MANGA
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SCARLET SOUL
Long ago, an ancient hero sealed away the underworld. Now, with that sacred barrier broken, it's up to Rin and the mysterious demon Aghyr to restore balance to the Kingdom of Nohmur!
SCARLET SOUL
KIRA YUKISHIRO
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TOKYOPOP
LOVE-x-LOVE
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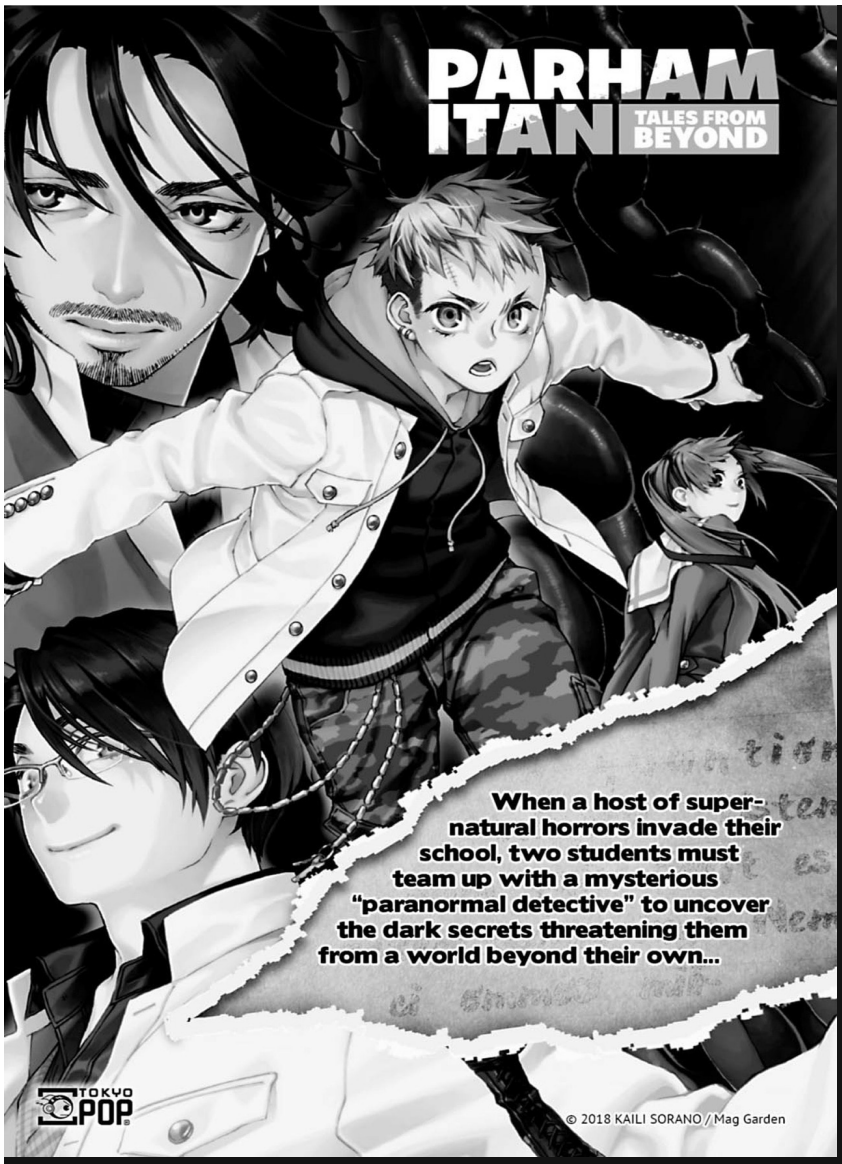
PARHAM
ITAN
TALES FROM BEYOND
When a host of super-natural horrors invade their school, two students must team up with a mysterious "paranormal detective" to uncover the dark secrets threatening them from a world beyond their own...
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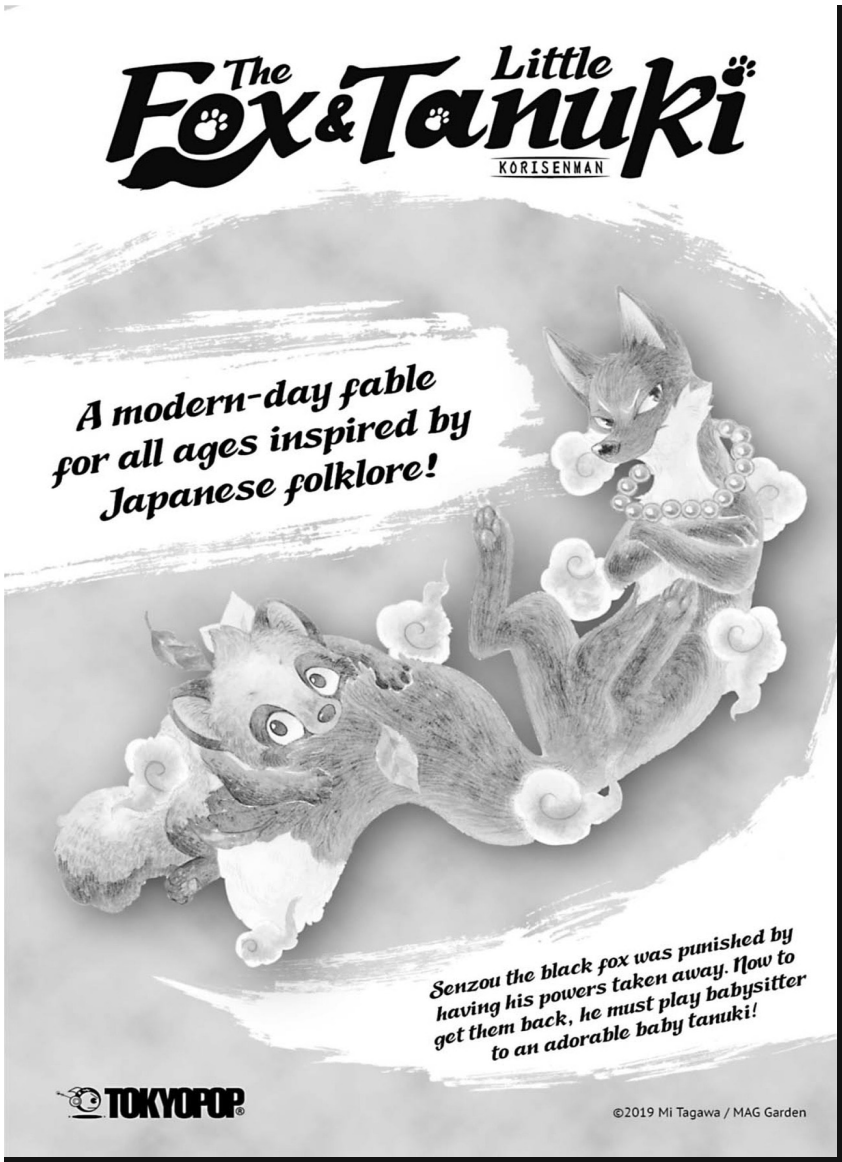
The Little Fox & Tanuki
KORISENMAN
A modern-day fable for all ages inspired by Japanese folklore!
Senzou the black fox was punished by having his powers taken away. Now to get them back, he must play babysitter to an adorable baby tanuki!
TOKYOPOP
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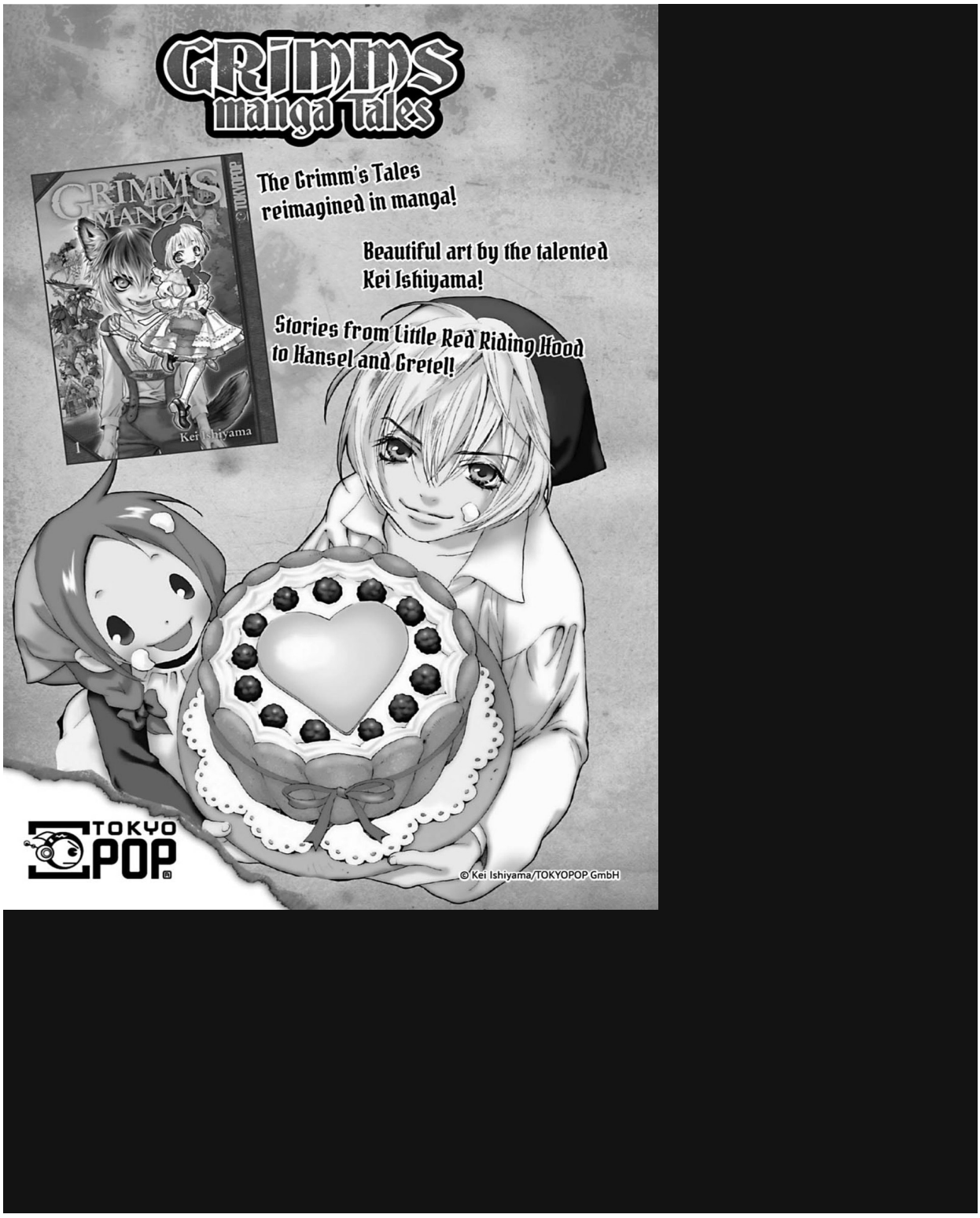

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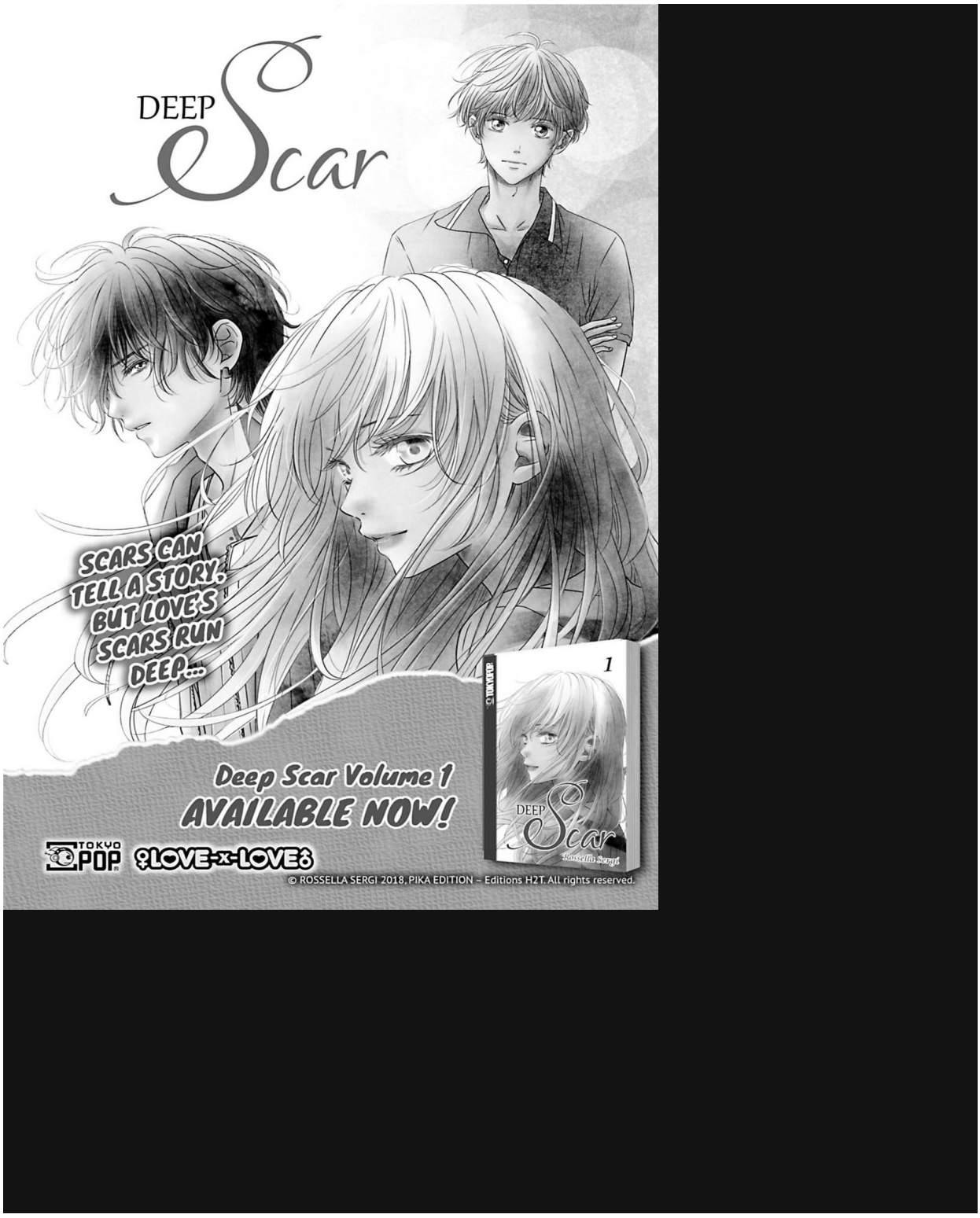

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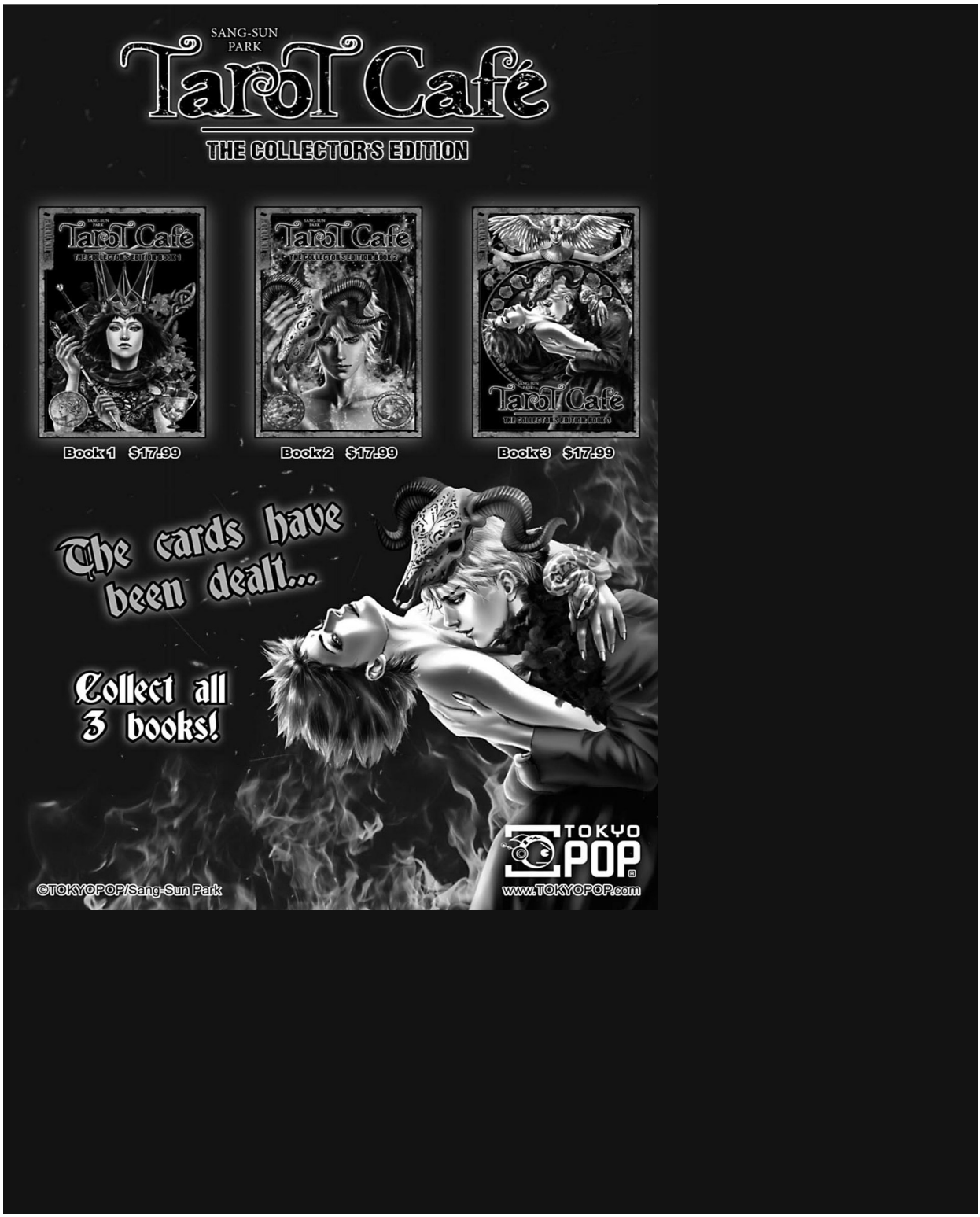

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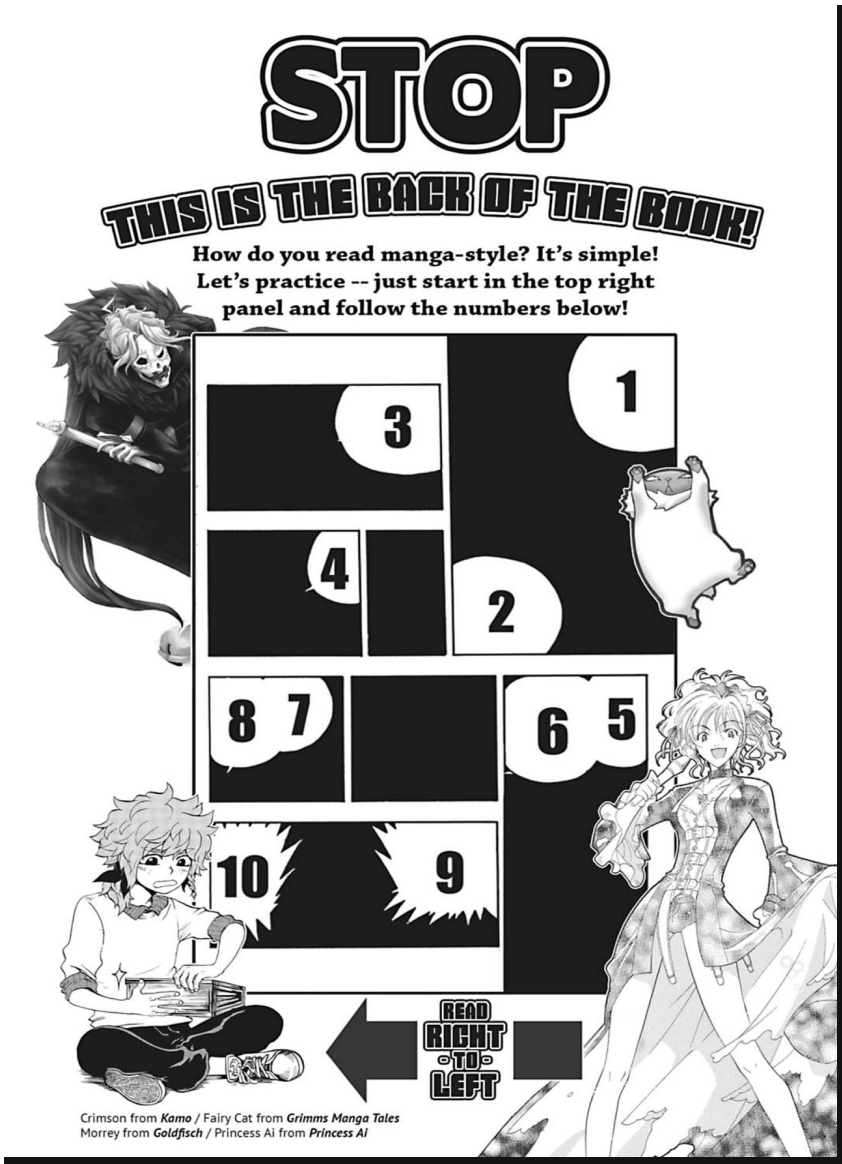

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